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## Evangelical Visitor - November, 1998 Vol. 111. No. 11

Glen A. Pierce

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evangelical

# VISITOR

November 1998

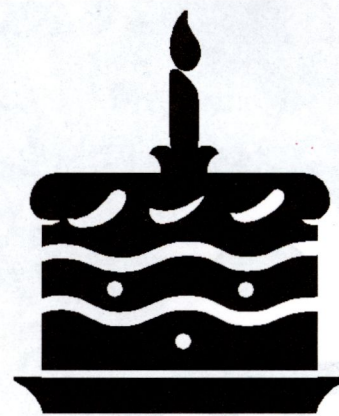
BLESSED  
to death?



*Now I wonder...  
were they destroyed  
spiritually because they  
were so blessed materially?*



## Westheights Community Brethren in Christ Church celebrates its 20th anniversary



by Judy Dilts

On November 22, 1998, Westheights Community Brethren in Christ Church celebrated its 20th Anniversary. This "daughter" of the Rosebank congregation has grown from the original ten families who formed the core of believers in 1978 to a membership of over 200 in 1998. Praise God!

It all began nearly 25 years ago, when two women, members of the Rosebank Church living in the Westheights area of Kitchener, felt a call to start a ladies' home Bible study. This Bible study attracted a growing number of women from the Westheights area who were hungry for the Word.

At the same time, families living in the city were inviting their friends and neighbors to go with them to services at the Rosebank church. More and more people were expressing appreciation for the fellowship and acceptance they received at Rosebank and through the Bible study group. As the Rosebank church filled to capacity, with limited opportunities to expand, they began to prayerfully consider "giving birth" to a new congregation.

With the assistance of Bishop Roy Sider and then Bishop Harvey Sider, and encouragement from the greater church body, interested members at Rosebank investigated possibilities of starting a daughter church in the Westheights area of Kitchener. A telephone survey conducted in the area produced a positive response from the community. Space was found in the local elementary school. And Pastor Ron Lofthouse from Rosebank agreed to share pastoral services between Rosebank and Westheights.

On November 26, 1978, at 9:30 a.m., Westheights Community Church was born. A core of 57 members and adherents from the Rosebank church, accompanied by an additional 28 friends and visitors, attended that first service. Sunday school for children and adults followed the church service (as Pastor Lofthouse hurried off for services at Rosebank). What a joy to have been part of that original gathering!

At the first council meeting on January 28, 1979, a budget of \$33,000 was approved, and within a few months, the church was looking for land on which to build. After much consideration and

prayer, a piece of land was located at Westheights and Queen Streets. In December 1980, an offer was made and accepted, and by the end of 1983, the land was completely paid for.

A building committee prayerfully developed plans that would meet the various needs of the church and, on October 5, 1986, a sod-turning service was held. The next few months were filled with prayer, work, tears and laughter as volunteers from the congregation, many friends, and various contractors worked side by side to complete the work on the new building. The first service in the new church was held in June 1987 and the new building was formally dedicated to the Lord's work on September 20, 1987.

The first full time pastor, Pastor Phil Keefer, came to Westheights with his family in July 1979. He was joined on a part-time basis by Pastor Dave Illman in October 1983. When Pastor Keefer accepted a call to Sherkston in May 1984, Pastor Illman, with his wife Doris, took over as full-time pastor and continued to serve until August 1997. The current pastor, Pastor Keith Wiggin, came to Westheights in December 1997 with his wife, Lois.

As the church grew (from 59 members in 1979 to 140 members in 1989), an associate pastor became necessary. Pastor Mike Hannigan served in this capacity from September 1988 to 1994 and Pastor Paul Kiss served as youth pastor from 1995 to September 1998.

These past 20 years have been years of growth and service—to the community, the Canadian Conference, and to the world-wide Brethren in Christ Church. Several members from Westheights have served on the mission field—both long and short terms. The current bishop of the Canadian Conference, Darrell Winger, was an original transferee from Rosebank as a teenager and attended Westheights with his parents and siblings.

Westheights Community Church has served as a "home church away from home" for many students attending university or Bible college in the Kitchener area and several pastoral students from Emmanuel Bible College have completed internships at Westheights. As well, the church has sponsored and/or assisted several Laotian refugees in their adjustment to Canadian life.

Today, the church continues to thrive on the Lord's blessings. People of various denominations and backgrounds, former pastors, missionaries and lay people, rich and poor, blue collar and white collar have all found acceptance, love, opportunity for Christian growth and service, and sustaining fellowship in the Lord at Westheights Community Church.

As we look to the future, our vision statement expresses the desire and mission of each of us at Westheights: "Helping People to Find and Follow Jesus." May God continue to guide and direct our congregation as we prayerfully seek to do his will and fulfill his mission.

"Special People" profiles a wide variety of Brethren in Christ members of all ages and from all walks of life. You are invited to submit a short article about some "Special Person" you would like to introduce to *Visitor* readers. (It's been some time since we've received articles about persons in the "teens to 40s" age range.) Articles should be typewritten, preferably 300-400 words, and must have the approval of the person being profiled. Please include a photo for publication (which will be returned). Mail your article to *Evangelical Visitor*, P.O. Box 166, Nappanee, IN 46550.



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# Blessed to death?

by Bill D. Hallsted

THEY WERE SUCH AN ASSET to the church. They didn't support the church very well financially. They did tithe. It was just that their tithe didn't amount to very much. Their business was new and struggling, and they were just barely getting by.

They sure did love the Lord, though! They both taught Sunday school. She taught a preschool class, and he taught the junior boys. Together they also had a Sunday afternoon youth group—5th and 6th graders.

They were very faithful in their attendance, too. In addition to being there when they were serving, they attended other services and a mid-week Bible study group. They said they thought it was necessary to receive as well as give, in order to keep growing spiritually. Spe-

cial meetings and programs counted on their attendance. They never disappointed.

She served in several capacities in the women's groups. She said it didn't really take that much time, and she felt good to be able to contribute.

He also served on the church board. Whenever there were work days or special projects, you knew they would be there.

When their first child was born, it hardly slowed them down. They were determined that having a family wasn't going to serve as an excuse to stop serving God, and it didn't. As the second child was added, it did make some difference, but they continued to be one of the hardest working families in the church.

At home, too, their Christianity was lived every day. They had a family devotion time

*Bill D. Hallsted is a freelance writer from Griffith, Ind.*



they guarded jealously. As soon as the children were old enough, they were included. Everything was kept on a level the children could understand and appreciate, but they all continued to grow.

Their faithfulness was rewarded in the way they grew spiritually. Their faithfulness was also a factor in the growth their church experienced. Because they were such fine examples of Christianity, their words and influence brought many others into the church.

Their business grew, too. It seemed as though God was blessing them in a very special way for their faithfulness to him. As their business grew, so did their tithe. They began to be able to give above and beyond their tithe as well. They worked with God, hand in hand all the way.

After several business expansions, they decided they had enough laid aside to build their dream house. They planned for months in order to make it just right, and had it built to exacting standards. It was everything they had wanted it to be, and they were ecstatic.

They had a wonderful relationship with God, they were an asset to their church, they had a beautiful family, and their new home was the icing on the cake. They had it all.

**T**HE BUSINESS, OF COURSE, was growing more demanding as time went on. Larger businesses just naturally require larger efforts and more time. He found more and more nights he just couldn't get home in time for family devotions, but she and the children went ahead without him. Then the business began to intrude—occasionally—into the mid-week Bible study group. The day finally came when he felt it necessary to cut back a little on his involvement in church responsibilities. "If I don't have time to do a good job," he reasoned, "I'd better let somebody else do it."

She found their dream house took a lot more time than she expected, too. There was so much to keep up, and it was much too big an investment to give anything but her very best effort. She helped with some of the business matters, too. Then there were the demands of a growing family and increasing involvement of the children in their own functions. She just didn't have time any more for all the things she was doing. She began to cut back, one by one, the responsibilities in the church she had so much enjoyed.

Recreation began to be a greater necessity, too. With the increased pressures of business and home, it was necessary to "get away" on something of a regular basis, just to relax. They could afford to do so, now, too. Of course, with the business and all, the only feasible time was the weekends, but there were, after all, others in the church who could fill in. Perhaps they had been doing too much themselves anyway. They wouldn't want to allow themselves to get "burned out."

The demands of their growing business kept increasing. So did the demands of home, family, school, community involvement, recreation, and personal time. There just wasn't time anymore! The only answer was to cut back more and more on their church involvement.

The family devotion time just sort of slipped away, too. It was so hard to find a time they could all be together. Besides, the children didn't seem all that interested anymore.

They still attend church. They still give. They are still willing to fill in sometimes, when a teacher can't be there. He still sits on the church board, but he isn't really active there. He's just too busy, you know.

They don't get much joy out of what church involvements they maintain, either. They both keep talking about how they "got burned out". They don't seem to notice that it wasn't when they were serving their best that they began to feel the "burnout." That happened when they "cut back" and "did less," and "let somebody else do it." The more they cut back, the more "burned out" they felt.

They prayed so hard for their business to succeed. I think God answered their prayer because they were so faithful—such an asset to his kingdom. Now I wonder—were they destroyed spiritually because they were so blessed materially? Did Jesus' warning about "the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth" find fulfillment in their lives? Will God need to take it all away again to restore them to faithfulness? Will they need to lose their success to save their souls?

What about your own life? Has God also blessed you? Have his blessings enhanced your value to his kingdom, or have they transferred much of your service to a lesser god?

***Have you allowed yourself to be blessed to death?***

*I think God  
answered  
their prayer  
because they  
were so  
faithful—  
such an asset  
to his  
kingdom.  
Now I  
wonder—  
were they  
destroyed  
spiritually  
because they  
were so  
blessed  
materially?*



**“But when you pray, go into your room,  
close the door and pray...”**

# **“Secret closet” praying**

**by  
Evelyn Christenson**

**M**Y OLD GREEN CHAIR has long since been reupholstered, but years ago, when it was brand new, it became the quiet place to which I would steal very early in the morning to spend time alone with God. It was on my knees at that old chair that I would pour out the inmost groanings of my heart—for only God to hear. Groanings much too personal to be heard by any other. My tears stained its cushion as I knelt interceding for a loved one. It was there I was filled with awe and adoration for him and all he is. “The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you” (1 Kings 8:27).

It was there on my knees with my open Bible that God taught me to wait on him for every point in a series of messages. It was there with my head buried in my hands that I begged God for wisdom for a certain message that I was to give. Not getting any answers, I reached for the morning newspaper, laid it on the seat of the chair, and read in the headlines that Russia had sent Sputnik I into outer space. Then God said, “It isn’t who can conquer outer space that counts but he who created it and by whom it consists” (see Colossians 1:16-17). I had my message!

## **Private prayer, public power**

Do you have a secret place for private prayer, a certain corner, a particular chair, or a room set apart where you can spend time alone with God? A “closet” where you daily shut the door to pray to your Father in secret? The group concept of prayer is important, and we do need to pray with one another, “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” (see Hebrews 10:25). But the drawing apart to pray in secret is perhaps the most vital type of prayer in which we engage. It is also an indicator of the kind of prayer group participant we really are, for it is our private praying that determines the quality and validity of our public praying.

Though we are never to be critical of the prayers of others, we can often recognize in our prayer groups those who have spent time in private closet prayer and the others who have come perhaps to do the only praying that they have done all week. Some struggle and strain to sound

pious, but it’s obvious that they haven’t experienced the deeper dimension of closet prayer.

Have you ever seen a bright blue iceberg? In Alaska I stared in awe at a mountain lake filled with beautiful blue icebergs that had broken off Portage Glacier. Immediately my mind went back to an article in a magazine that compared our secret praying to an iceberg. The “Absolutely No Boating” sign on the edge of the lake reminded me that eight-ninths of the bulk of an iceberg is below the waterline—out of sight. Only one-ninth is visible above the surface. The next day at our prayer seminar in Anchorage, I explained how prayer should be like those icebergs, with about one-ninth showing in our public group praying and eight-ninths out of sight in our secret closets.

## **Other closets**

I can almost hear you saying, “I can’t spend great periods of time in a closet.” No, neither can I, but I have found another kind of closet praying. It’s just drawing apart to God wherever I am—at the kitchen sink, at a desk, or even in a room filled with people.

“You must have tremendous power of concentration,” someone said.

No, I’ve just learned to draw apart from people to God. Practicing this at a California retreat with 525 people packed in a room that barely held 500, we found, though touching elbows physically, that we could each draw apart mentally to God. This too is closet praying, though it is no substitute for drawing apart to that one spot, at that one time of the day when we really spend time with God and his Word.

One of my very favorite “closets” is my car. As I draw apart, you may be sure I don’t take my hands off the wheel, fold them, and kneel. To shut my eyes would be even worse!

One morning as I was getting ready to leave for an all-day prayer seminar fifty miles away, everything went wrong. My husband called from California asking me to find out when he was to meet certain professors at the San Francisco airport and to give the information to his secretary so he could call her after I had gone. After franti-

*Excerpted from What Happens When Women Pray (Deluxe Edition) by Evelyn Christenson, published by ChariotVictor Publishing. Since 1968, Evelyn Christenson has led prayer seminars worldwide. Millions of readers have enjoyed Evelyn’s books, which include Lord Change Me! and A Journey into Prayer. Evelyn and her husband Harold live in St. Paul, Minnesota. Used by permission.*



cally dialing all the numbers possible, I couldn't find the professors and I couldn't find the secretary.

Then my son called from school. "Mom, I forgot all my books; could you bring them over?" I did, and was completely out of time when I left his school, only to run into such a long detour that I could hardly find my way back to the freeway.

As I finally emerged on the right road, I cried to God. "O Lord, take over! Remove from me all this tension and frustration. Flow through me with your peace and power. Make me what you want me to be by the time I arrive at the prayer seminar." And he did! My car had become my prayer closet.

Even a plane seat can be a prayer closet. For two years I had been praying with a friend about her sister who did not know Christ. Every time my friend wrote to her sister, she'd call asking me to pray for God to work in her heart as she received the letter. One day my plane had a ten-minute layover in a Midwestern city with no time for me to disembark. I looked out over the city and thought, "That's where my friend's sister lives!" Suddenly there descended from God a heavy, overwhelming burden to pray for her. I sat in that plane in the very depths of intercessory prayer. Two days later my elated friend called to say, "I just received a letter from my sis, and she accepted Christ!" When? The exact day God had said in that plane, "Evelyn, pray."

### Which posture?

Just as our momentary closet praying requires no particular place, neither does it require a certain prayer posture. In one of my seminars a man announced to me after the first session that he would not be back. "You're not praying scripturally," he said. When I asked him to please explain, he replied, "You're not 'holding up holy hands.'" He could see only this one position to be used at all times, even though I pointed out to him that there are many postures of prayer mentioned in the Word of God.

When Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, he gave us the example of kneeling in prayer. "He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed" (Luke 22:41). At the tomb of Lazarus, while standing, "Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me'" (John 11:41). Paul wrote, "I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing" (1 Timothy 2:8).

My husband can recall circumstances in which men experienced such grief and anguish that they laid prostrate on the floor of his study. One was a dad who had just learned that his teenage daughter was pregnant out of wedlock. He cast himself to the floor, weeping, and my

husband had to take him in his arms and gently lift him up.

King Solomon, in the Old Testament, prostrated himself before the Lord when he prayed in the temple. His father, David, communed with God upon his bed (Psalm 4:4). Whatever our posture, wherever the place, the ears of our God are open to our cry (see Psalm 34:15).

### Holy places

God does not dwell in temples made with hands. Even so, some spots have been used as closets for prayer by so many that they seem to be holy places. Have you ever stepped into a room and felt God there? My husband and I were looking over the grounds at a Midwestern retreat center one fall. We stepped into an old chapel and I felt God's presence immediately. "Hon, please go on without me for a few minutes," I said. I knelt at that altar—not talking or praying, but just feeling God so powerfully there.

Another time I arrived at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul to speak at a women's retreat just as the planning committee stepped out of the Eric Frykenberg Prayer Tower, where they had been praying. Their eyes were wide with wonder and amazement. "We felt Jesus there!"

"Yes," I replied, "that is one of those places where I always feel a particular sense of the presence of Christ." That little circular room has no windows or furniture, but it is filled with the thousands of prayers uttered by students and faculty of that seminary—and God's presence!

Christ recognized the need for spending time alone with God. What a tremendous example Christ's prayer life was to his followers and to us. Though the disciples were Jesus' very closest friends, he knew there were times he had to pray in secret to his Heavenly Father. Although Christ taught his disciples the concept of group prayer, he also knew the importance of this private closet praying. Even though he himself was God incarnate, he thought it necessary to withdraw to a mountain to pray all night before the important task of choosing the Apostles. If he, why not us?

*Lord, give me the joy of secret closet praying.  
Keep me faithful to shut the door every day and  
spend time with you and your Word in secret.  
Teach me to draw apart alone with you, no  
matter where I am or with whom.*

"But when  
you pray, go  
into your  
room, close  
the door  
and pray to  
your Father,  
who is  
unseen.  
Then your  
Father, who  
sees what is  
done in  
secret, will  
reward  
you."

(Matthew 6:6)



# Indoor games for Christmas



Children at Christmas are filled with anticipation, energy, and enthusiasm. Consider these indoor games as activities for your home, or supplements to your Sunday school, Children's church, or mid-week programs during the Christmas season. Moving and learning about our Savior's birth intertwine as children enjoy the fun of playing.

## Christmas Sing-a-Song

In advance, prepare several index cards, writing on each card a word that follows a Christmas theme: angels, Jesus, manger, stars, etc.

Divide the group into two teams, have them face each other, and place the stack of index cards in between the two teams. One team begins by drawing a card. One player on that team has 15 seconds to begin singing a complete phrase of a Christmas song containing that word. The opposing team then has the same amount of time to begin singing a complete phrase of another song that has the same word. Play goes back and forth. A point is given to the last team to think of a song. The game continues with a new word with possession going to the team that earned the point in the previous round.

## Christmas Chairs

This game is a variation of "Musical Chairs." Arrange the chairs (one less than the number of children) in a row. As you play Christmas music, the children walk around the chairs. When the music stops, everyone tries to sit down. The child left standing needs to name a character of fact from the Christmas story. A variation would be to have them sing part of a Christmas carol. Continue the game as time allows.

## Holiday Draw

In advance, write some words related to any holiday on small pieces of paper. (Examples for Christmas: manger, donkey, Christmas tree, baby Jesus, gifts, etc.)

Divide the children into two teams. A child from one team will pick a word from the pile of papers and begin drawing a picture on the board to get the rest of the team to guess that word. The team has one minute to guess what the word is. The child drawing cannot say anything. If the team doesn't guess, the other team gets one guess for that word. Whether they guess it or not, a child from that second team then gets a turn to pick a word and draw for his or her team.

## Jesus Diaper Bag

Fill a bag with a stuffed donkey, straw, star, cloth diaper or rag, sheep, angel, gold, and perfume. Introduce the bag as "Jesus' diaper bag." Explain that it is filled with things that are part of the story of when Jesus was born. (You may also choose to speak in character as Mary or Joseph.) As you tell the Christmas story, take out the items and display them. After telling the story, put the items back in the bag and distribute paper and pencils to the children. Give them a limited time in which they are to list as many items as they can remember.

## Jesus Christ Is Born

Children stand in a circle, singing these lyrics to the melody of "The Farmer in the Dell." Choose one child to start the game as shepherd. The child will start by following the instructions for verse one and continue throughout the song. Actions to accompany the lyrics appear in parentheses. You may want to read these aloud to the group all at once or as each verse is sung. (Hands are joined only during verses 1 and 4.)

1. Go, take your sheep and follow,  
Go, take your sheep and follow,  
Go, take your sheep and follow,  
Jesus Christ is born!  
(One player chooses two sheep, and they weave in and out of everyone's joined hands.)
2. Now enter in the stable,  
Now enter in the stable,  
Now enter in the stable,  
Jesus Christ is born!  
(Shepherd and sheep tiptoe to the center; others tiptoe in place.)
3. Now see the baby sleeping,  
Now see the baby sleeping,  
Now see the baby sleeping,  
Jesus Christ is born!  
(Shepherd and sheep still in the center, everyone "rocks a baby.")
4. Now go and spread the Good News,  
Now go and spread the Good News,  
Now go and spread the Good News,  
Jesus Christ is born!  
(Shepherd and sheep join hands and approach another player. This player joins hands as they move to the next player. Continue until all players are joined to form a chain. Repeat the verse if necessary.)

## For Preschoolers

### Christmas Angel Action

The excitement of Jesus' birth can be relived through remembering the hosts of angels which heralded the occasion. Play a version of "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Have the children pin angel pictures on top of a picture of a Christmas tree.

### Fill the Manger

Have three teams of children line up behind starting marks. Explain what a manger is and that a manger was Jesus' first bed. Tell the children that each team is responsible for transporting the straw (or shredded paper) to their team's box, simulating the real manger Jesus slept in. The first team that can

successfully transport every piece of straw or paper to fill their box wins the competition.

### Follow the Star

This game goes with the story of the Wise Men who followed the star of Bethlehem. Cut out star shapes from two different colors of construction paper. Tape the stars (at least twenty for each team) around an area for children to find them. Divide the class into teams. Assign one of the star colors to each team. Set the timer for one minute. Explaining to the children that the team that finds the most stars for their team during the time limit wins. Hide the stars in new places and play again.

*Excerpted from 100 Indoor Games for Preschoolers and 100 Indoor Games for School Kids, David C. Cook Church Ministries. Used by permission.*



# Longest flood on record creates misery for Bangladeshis

Monsoon rains are an annual occurrence in tropical Bangladesh, but this year, flood water has engulfed two-thirds of the country, affecting some 30 million people. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) staff are supplying emergency food valued at \$15,000 Cdn./\$10,000 U.S. and planning for longer-term assistance.

"The magnitude of the destruction continues to grow. We become more sober each day as the waters continue to rise and the long-term impact becomes more apparent. This is the longest flood on record, now into its second month," wrote Thomas Wenger, MCC's Bangladesh program director, in a September 8 e-mail message.

Wenger said agricultural production has "been affected on a wide scale," and predicted that the availability and prices of vegetables and grains will be impacted. He reported limited feed for livestock, trees dying due to the standing water, and fish washed out of ponds.

"The real battles will begin when the



Rachel Hess

*Shefali Baroi (holding her child) is one of 44 women employed at Biborton Handmade Paper, an MCC job creation program. By the beginning of September, Biborton facilities were under three feet of water and production had stopped. Ten Thousand Village shops in North America carry stationery, picture frames, and greeting cards made by women at Biborton.*

water recedes—preventing epidemics and keeping famine at bay," according to Wenger. "If the waters don't subside, there won't be a harvest or rice planted for the winter."

Two MCC job creation project sites in Agailjhara—Biborton Handmade

Paper and Keya Palm—are under several feet of water. According to Wenger, "This was going to be a banner year for total job creation enterprise sales until this flood stopped production at many sites."

## MCC response to Hurricane Mitch moving forward

by John M. Spidaliere

AKRON, PA. (Nov. 5)—Mennonite Central Committee has announced an urgent call to respond to Hurricane Mitch, which last week devastated Central America. The death toll in the region continues to rise as rescue workers continue to search for the nearly 13,000 still reported missing.

MCC is calling on constituents to give at least \$465,100 Cdn./\$300,000 U.S. as MCC responds to requests from Central American partners for immediate and longer-term assistance. Other plans, not yet finalized, include provid-

ing food, together with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Winnipeg, Man.

MCC is also asking constituents to prepare 10,000 Hurricane Relief Kits immediately and bring them to the nearest MCC office. MCC is planning two shipments of Relief Kits, a first shipment the week of November 23 and a second shipment before Christmas.

A Hurricane Relief Kit includes:

- 2 wide tooth combs
- 6 adult-size toothbrushes (leave in package)

- 2 family-size tubes of toothpaste
- 1 package of 24 sanitary napkins (thin maxi-pads)
- 1 bottle acetaminophen, i.e. Tylenol (min. 100 tablets)
- 1 bottle of cough syrup with expectorant
- 2 lightweight bath towels
- 4 bars of anti-bacterial soap
- 1 large tube of antifungal cream, i.e. Tinactin, Lotrimin
- envelope with a \$15 Cdn./\$10 U.S. check. MCC will use these funds to include a Spanish language Bible and pay for transporting the kits.

The contents should be placed in a five-gallon plastic pail with lid and delivered to the nearest MCC office. If a pail is not available, a box will do.

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# *MCC response to Hurricane Mitch moving forward...*

*continued from page 9*

MCC is also providing water purification equipment and medicines accessed through Interchurch Medical Association, New Windsor, Md.

Relief efforts began on November 5, when MCC purchased 60 tons of rice, beans and corn in Belize for shipment to Honduras. A ship sails from Houston, Texas, to Honduras, on November 11, carrying 22 tons of MCC canned meat, blankets, soap and food.

MCC has provided \$15,500 Cdn./\$10,000 U.S. to its partner, the MAMA Project in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. MAMA is working in areas near San Pedro where flooding is a chronic problem. MCC provided another \$62,015 Cdn./\$40,000 U.S. to the Mennonite Social Action Commission for emergency relief. MCC expects additional requests from partner agencies in the coming weeks.

To donate funds for the Hurricane Mitch relief effort, mark contribution 5900-2030, Hurricane Mitch.

Hurricane Mitch has been described as the worst natural catastrophe ever to hit Central America. According to the National Emergency Committee (COPECO), in Honduras alone, the death toll is now 5,273 people. Another 11,085 are missing. COPECO also reported that 1.9 million people have been directly affected by the storm, losing their homes or temporarily displaced. Around the country 15,044 shelters still hold displaced people.

Hurricane Mitch battered the north coast of Honduras, causing widespread loss to human life and property. Ed Stamm Miller, who with his wife Sue is country co-representative, lives in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. During a phone interview this morning, he said rescue efforts continue on the north coast.

"Many are still waiting for rescue from their flooded homes," he said.

"People are getting sick from bad water and we can see kids beginning to suffer from malnutrition. Many have been wet and living in the waters for more than a week."

The capital city, Tegucigalpa, was hit hard. This city in the mountains is ordinarily a picturesque old Latin city with a charming downtown area. After Mitch, mudslides destroyed portions of the city. The downtown is still under water. Water reached up to the third floor in some buildings in the downtown market area. South of the city, in the Choluteca Region, where MCC had been working in drought relief, floods blanket the landscape and have destroyed this year's crops.

George and Lois Zimmerman, Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) church and leadership workers in

Guatemala City, spoke with EMM workers in La

***Hurricane Mitch has been described as the worst natural catastrophe ever to hit Central America.***

Ceiba, a Honduran city on the north coast. La Ceiba had been hit hard by the storm, but fared better than was first thought, they said. There is less loss of life than there had been during Hurricane Fifi in

1974, but property loss and destruction of infrastructure is far worse. The number of dead in La Ceiba and other areas on the north coast is not yet known.

Honduras' infrastructure has been severely damaged. COPECO reports 93 bridges were destroyed and 71 seriously damaged. "Infrastructure damage is huge with nearly every major highway in Honduras severed by destroyed and damaged bridges. Central Tegucigalpa was totally cut off after every major bridge leading into the downtown area was either destroyed or damaged by high water," added Stamm Miller.

In Nicaragua, the devastation caused

by Mitch is being compared to the 1972 earthquake, which measured 6.5 on the Richter Scale and leveled the capital, Managua. Wednesday, Mt. Cerro Negro, a 2,214-foot volcano, began spewing lava and ash. The volcano erupted in 1995, spreading ash over a 90-square-mile area. The volcano is located only 20 miles away from Mt. Castas, another volcano that was the site of a mudslide Friday, Oct. 31. The crater lake inside the volcano collapsed, sending a wall of mud and debris over villages below. The mudslide took the lives of as many as 2,000. Another 600 died elsewhere in the country from hurricane-related incidents.

By the time the storm reached Guatemala City, it had been downgraded to a tropical storm but was no less furious. Still packing 45 mph winds and heavy rains, many of the poorly-constructed homes of Guatemala City were unable to withstand the pounding. The eye of the storm stayed over the city for more than 24 hours. Rains led to mud slides, which destroyed many barrios built on the sides of deep ravines. Guatemala President Alvaro Arzu announced Tuesday that 157 people had died, 100,000 homes had been damaged or destroyed, and 30 highways blocked.

The Zimmermans also reported the Bezalel Center, located near San Pedro Carcha, Guatemala, withstood the hurricane. There was, however, considerable flooding in Carcha and surrounding areas. The Bezalel Center is an educational conference center. Its construction was a joint project between EMM, MCC and the K'ekchi Mennonite Church.

In El Salvador, the National Emergency Committee had counted 222 dead, 135 missing, and 50,000 people displaced by the storm. MCC expects to respond to a request for \$7,750 Cdn./\$5,000 U.S. up to \$15,500 Cdn./\$10,000 U.S. to assist with relief efforts in the coastal region.

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*John M. Spidaliere is a writer for MCC Communications.*



In this year, when we celebrate 100 years of Brethren in Christ World Missions, we have also had to face the disturbing news of Jack McClane's premature resignation because of a health crisis. The Board for World Missions, represented by its executive committee as led by the General Secretary, is

# In search of an executive director

by David L. Hall

in the process of searching for the right person to become the next Executive Director of Brethren in Christ World Missions.

When the Brethren in Christ responded to the vision of world missions 100 years ago, we were a different church in a different world. It was the heart of colonialism; missions was easy prey to paternalism and hegemony. It was also a time when the Brethren in Christ were extremely (especially by today's standards) separatist.

An underlying assumption among sectarian Christian groups was the "correctness" of each respective group, and part of the motivation for denominational missions was taking the "right" kind of Christianity to the world. This meant that each endeavor tried to establish its own complete work with little or no cooperation with others.

And yet the kingdom of God was extended. People came to faith and churches were established in places where the name of Christ had never been heard before. Along with that, support ministries were started: schools and hospitals. At the same time, new fields were opened.

Now at 100 years, Brethren in Christ World Missions is still expanding into new areas, as well as maintaining older, more traditional ministries. Some new endeavors are coming from national churches—second generation missions, if you will. This is especially significant at a time when there is insufficient financial support from North America to meet current opportunities. This development, coupled with various viewpoints on how to relate to our older, established works (the idea of relinquishing to the national churches all control of schools and

medical facilities in Africa, for example) begins to form the challenge facing a new executive director.

One of the lasting legacies from Jack McClane will be his emphasis on theologically-trained personnel. As missions endeavors go into an increasingly complicated future, it is imperative that workers come from a well-established foundation. Helping to guide that base will continue to be part of the Executive Director's role. A significant change in the life of the Brethren in Christ Church since the 1950s has been an increasing identification and partnership with the larger Christian community. A similar degree of identification and partnership has not yet been utilized in missions. An emphasis we are looking for in the new Executive Director is the desire to network and partner with sister agencies and denominations to do the work of the Great Commission on a scale we just cannot do by ourselves.

This means that the highest priority on a new job description will be vision-casting for world missions. A new executive director should move increasingly in missions circles of the evangelical community, since the Brethren in Christ have something both to contribute to and to receive from larger missiological contexts.

This involvement will affect current patterns and responsibilities. Recognizing that the home office needs to stay in touch with the fields and that our missionaries need a sense of pastoral care, the Executive Director will need to be able to delegate most of the foreign travel so that he is able to have the time to cast vision and carry out the overall administrative responsibilities.

It should go without saying that the Executive Director needs to be gifted in the public promotion of world missions. This is another area where Jack McClane has set a standard from which we have no wish to retreat.

All of this is to say that the Search Committee has a monumental task. As we assess current strengths and weaknesses, as we try to evaluate our own visions and to listen to what the Lord of the church is saying to us who have inherited this responsibility, we need the prayers of the Church at large. If the direction we are casting causes you to think of a certain person so gifted and trained, you are welcome to let us know.

David L. Hall is senior pastor of the Elizabethtown (Pa.) Brethren in Christ Church and chairs the Board for World Missions.



# Rey de Gloria (King of Glory)

by Mike and Sherry Holland

The Rey de Gloria (King of Glory) church was founded in 1994 by three families from the Montalban church led by Mike and Sherry Holland. They started services in a Lutheran church on Sunday afternoons and after a few months, moved to a Karate and Aerobics gym in a shopping center closer to the main street of Colinas de Bello Monte in Caracas. Soon after the second anniversary of the church, it was turned over to a Venezuelan pastor.

The church started a bookstore ministry where, over the past year, we have seen fifty people make decisions or commitments for Christ. Many of these people are in the church now. On the first day the bookstore opened, a lady named Ines came in and asked who we were. When we explained that we are evangelical Christians she said, "Oh, the evangelicals have been very good to me." A small church ten years earlier had provided care for her two young children, one a newborn baby, during a period of separation from her husband and while her two-year-old daughter was in the hospital with a fatal heart condition. Ines went on and asked, "What do you do here?"

I answered, "We sell Christian books and Bibles and teach the Bible and pray for people."

"Oh," she said with interest, "How much do the prayers cost? I need lots of prayer." (I assured her that we prayed for people free of charge!) We prayed for her husband who was hospitalized with a potentially terminal



*Some of the people from the Re de Gloria congregation present for the dedication of their bookstore a couple of years ago.*

bacterial infection, and within a week he was out with no trace of the infection. Ines recovered from a mental breakdown and now attends church faithfully. She needs constant prayer support for a critical family situation.

Although there was extraordinary growth at the end of last year, in the first few months of this year the enemy attacked this young church with all his fury. There were three funerals, including a founding member and a six-year-old boy from the congregation. Two of the faithful members are under treatment for cancer. Several families are on the verge of separation because of stress in the homes.

The Rey de Gloria church took a severe knock when their pastor was required by the church board and national Ministerial Credentialing Committee to be suspended from ministry as a result of a personal problem which compromised his pas-

toral testimony. The church board asked Mike Holland to return as interim pastor while they seek the Lord's direction for the next steps.

This baby church, now about four years old, is coming out of several months of confusion and grieving and is beginning to move forward in deepened maturity and renewed faith. A baptism service was held at the end of February. A man in his late thirties returned to the Lord after leaving his mother's church at the age of 14 and nearly destroying his life with drugs. Attendance is back up and the healthy youth program is underway.

Rey de Gloria is currently looking for a new, larger meeting place. The Lord opened the way for them to remain at the present location, the karate gym, with an extension of time having been granted. Pray for the Lord's will to be accomplished and that a healthy, stable, fruitful future will be assured for the church.

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*Mike and Sherry Holland have been serving as church planters in Caracas, Venezuela, since 1985. In this article Mike gives some history and describes the growth of the Rey de Gloria Church, one of five Brethren in Christ churches planted in that country since 1985.*



# "I shall know him"

by Rachel Kibler

A few weeks ago we visited Anna's home. Anna looked like she must be 90 years old, but I am sure she was not. She and two of her sisters lived together. They were all widows. One younger woman lives there, too—the daughter of one of the three sisters—and she is also a widow. They rent out two rooms of their home. But it was Anna to whom I was immediately attracted. She was not well. Her body was retaining a lot of fluid, but to me she had the face of a very old, beautiful, black angel. Deep lines marked her face. She had large expressive eyes.

I was told soon after I got there that a few weeks before, when we had attended a small group meeting in her area, her sister attended the meeting. And when they had the gift exchange, which they do from time to time, the sister got the gift I had brought. The gift was four small plastic dishes with lids, fastened together with a handle. I had rice in one dish, tea in another, sugar in another, and brownies in another. When the sister had left for the meeting, Anna had said, "Please bring some cake home." Sure enough, it happened. They were excited. She was especially excited when I told her the brownie mix had come from America, and the nuts in them had been sent by my family.

Before we left, they wanted to sing. I asked Anna to choose a song, and her choice was:

"When my life's work is ended and I cross the swelling tide, when the bright and glorious morning I shall see. I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side, and his smile will be the first

to welcome me. I shall know him, and redeemed by his side I shall stand. I shall know him, by the print of the nails in his hand."

She sang with us and had a surprisingly strong soprano voice. I then suggested that we sing:

"By and by, when the morning

comes, when the saints of God are gathered home, we shall tell the story how we've overcome, and we'll understand it better by and by."

Again, she sang with us.

Yesterday we learned that Anna passed away the night before. I feel a personal loss, but I would not wish her back for anything in the world. As I consider the meager, meager life which she had lived, I just wish I could hide behind one of the "gates of pearl" and listen to her exclamations as she beholds the wonders that are hers to enjoy for all eternity. And I wish I could have seen her when she first recognized Jesus "by the print of the nails in his hands."

## Just Beautiful

by Rachel Kibler

On a special celebration Sunday, the new Mwapona church planting focused on what the resurrection means to all who have accepted Christ as Savior. In the course of the service, one of the women sat down beside me to tell me that they had cooked for the choir and that they also wanted us to stay for lunch, an invitation which I accepted.

Lunch was the usual *nsima* with a tiny bit of meat and cabbage, not exactly what I had planned, but the fellowship was great. The most exciting thing that happened for me that morning took place after the service and before lunch.

A young woman, maybe thirty years of age, called me over and said she wanted me to meet her children. I had been told she didn't have children, but I had seen her nursing a baby, so I knew she had at least one. She has a beautiful singing voice and often sings a solo in church. I had asked about her husband and was told she didn't have a husband. I could never quite get the full story concerning her. So I went to meet her children: a pretty little girl in sixth grade and a nice looking boy in fourth grade, plus a baby.

This woman is a very forthright person. As we chatted, I asked her if she had a husband and she said, "No, but I am praying for one." I asked her if each of her children had a different father and she affirmed that was true. I then asked her if she was continuing with this kind of lifestyle. Her face lit up and she said, "Oh, no. I looked at my life and could see that it wasn't going anywhere, and I knew it was displeasing to God, so I knelt down in my bedroom and asked God to forgive me of my sins."

"Did he forgive you?" I asked.

She smiled her beautiful smile and said, "Oh, yes. And now I am a new creature in Christ. I am not going to live that way anymore."

We've seen a gradual change in her over the past months, but then she made her decision to leave a life of sin and accept Christ. She listens to a lot of tapes and then sings songs she learns from the tapes. I find myself in tears when she stands and sings with great depth of feeling, "There is a redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son; precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One. Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son, and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done." She has come to know personally this redeemer and one can see the joy on her face of being a "new creature in Christ." No one had forced her, but she had kept coming to church and the Holy Spirit had faithfully and consistently drawn her until she was willing to respond. Isn't that just beautiful?

Rachel Kibler and her husband George are on furlough ministry after serving at Nahumba Mission, the headquarters of the Zambia Brethren in Christ Church in Choma, Zambia. The Kiblers are members at the Cumberland Valley Brethren in Christ Church in Dillsburg, Pa.





## Did you say, "wedding evangelism?"

by Doyle and  
Thelma Book

*Doyle and Thelma Book are self-supporting associates of Brethren in Christ World Missions. They served under Brethren in Christ World Missions in Japan from 1957 to 1972 and after a period of time in the States returned to Japan. In recent years, they have been involved in wedding chapel ministry which they describe in this article.*

We are seeing in Japan a phenomenon which defies explanation. Christian wedding chapels, many of them appearing as full church buildings, are appearing all over this nation by the scores.

"Chapel weddings" have been growing in popularity in recent years, largely, no doubt, because of the influence of movies from Europe and America and because many public figures in Japan, particularly movie stars, have chosen this kind of ceremony. But in recent years, the number of couples seeking chapel weddings has been growing explosively.

After 28 years of ministry in Japan, I know of no other method of evangelism which offers so much potential for a clear personal witness to thousands (the couples) and for drawing the interest of tens of thousands (the families and friends) toward the Christian church and, hopefully, its Savior.

One fascinating aspect of this trend is that many of the companies involved in the wedding business want to provide the "genuine article"—a truly Christian church ceremony conducted by a qualified (ordained) minister. Many of these businesses are seeking the help of missionaries because of the special appeal created by having a foreigner conduct the ceremony.

Yes, the interest of these businesses is monetary—the services they sell along with one chapel ceremony (banquet, honeymoon trip, etc.) might well bring into their coffers \$30,000 and more. Furthermore, it must be admitted that the couples who seek a chapel wedding are not particularly interested in the Christian faith.

How, then, do we evaluate this phenomenon in the context of worldwide missions? The Church in Japan long ago lost its attractiveness toward its society. In most cases it has been introspective, joyless, and ritualistic. Into that void, God himself is moving to make the Church attractive once again.

God is building churches with the world's money! Is it possible that he is preparing these buildings for a coming revival when they will be needed for the sudden influx of people into his kingdom? The thought is almost too much for me to contain emotionally.

At the beginning of the orientation time I have with the couple some days prior to their wedding, I always ask them, both as a matter of personal interest and also as an ice-breaker, why they chose a Christian wedding ceremony. The most frequent answers are: the desire to wear the white wedding dress; the appeal of that solemn, stately walk down the aisle; the fact that the words of the ceremony can be understood; and the fact that friends can attend. These things are not available in a traditional Japanese (Shinto) ceremony.

In a word, the Christian ceremony is beautiful! It is appealing!

The bride-to-be will often say that she has wanted a church wedding ever since she was a little girl. One young lady told me, "I have never linked arms with my father. I wanted to walk down the aisle on his arm." Just before the wedding of that young lady began, I told her father what she had said. I thought he was going to cry on the spot! It is very rare for a Japanese man to show emotion of this kind! Perhaps he realized he had not shown the affection to his children which they deserved. When this man walked down the aisle with his daughter, I could see that he was still struggling to contain his emotions.

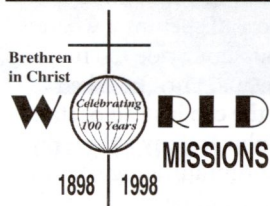
Where does evangelism occur in all this glitter? First, the orientation session provides the setting to explain carefully to the couple the nature of the living God who created marriage and who gives meaning to the church ceremony. Second, the ceremony includes an opportunity to speak a message to people who, in most cases, have never been to church before. I have conducted three, four, and even six weddings in one day on many occasions! Thus, it's possible that from 150 to 500 non-Christians might hear words of the Gospel on days when weddings are held!

Another dimension in chapel weddings is to make the ceremony so moving, so full of meaning, so heartfelt, so lovely in content, that the people who enter a church for the first time will feel genuine delight in their experience. I pray that they will say, "Wow, church is nice!" and be open to attending a Christian meeting again when the opportunity is presented them.

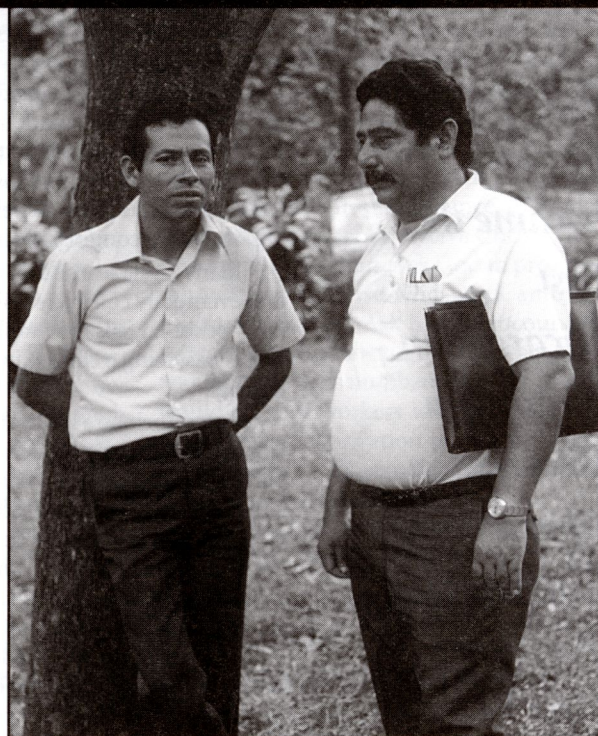
Indeed, perhaps this part of the chapel wedding ministry is even more important than "preaching" a message in the ceremony. If minds formerly disinterested in the Church can suddenly feel attracted to it through a lovely event, perhaps they will be ready to open further at another time when the Gospel can be explained more

*continued on page 22*





*In this undated photo, Miguel Jara (left, then president of the Nicaraguan church) talks with Enrique Palacios (executive minister.)*



I first met Enrique Palacios in 1980 when my parents (Nelson and Eleanor Poe) were studying Spanish in San Jose, Costa Rica, preparing to go to Nicaragua as missionaries with the Brethren in Christ Church. Enrique and Eugene Madeira, the missionary my father would be replacing in Nicaragua, visited us for a few days in San Jose. Enrique and his wife Teresa and two children, Flor Azucena and Jonathan Obed, would later become good friends of our family. Years later, Enrique was also our pastor when my two sisters and I become members of Bello Horizonte Brethren in Christ Church in Managua. Enrique eventually hired me to work with the development organization he led after I graduated from Messiah College in 1991.

I interviewed Enrique as a project in the Historical Study and Writing class at Messiah College. I asked him about his childhood and conversion. He replied, "I was born in Managua, Nicaragua, on September 26, 1947. I never knew my father because he abandoned my mother before I was born. My mother died when I was six years old. I was raised by my grandmother, on my father's side, until I was 13 years old. From then on, I had to leave the house because many families were living in my grandmother's house. I accepted Christ in 1969 under the ministry of Pearl and Howard Wolgemuth, when they were missionaries in Nicaragua."

About his early life as a Christian, Enrique told me that he studied the Bible by correspondence through a biblical institute affiliated with the Quakers in Chiquimula, Guatemala, and began his ministry upon graduation. "During those times, I worked at a coffee plantation, named Santa Rita, located in the mountains south of Managua. I was in charge of personnel. Also, I ran a little store where I sold clothes, shoes, medicine, food, and other things for the workers and the neighbors of the plantation. While working at Santa Rita, I met Teresa Bermudez,

who later became my wife.

"On the days we had church services, I had to travel by foot 17 kilometers. Since services on Sunday were at 9 a.m., and also at 7 p.m., I had to leave the farm at 8 a.m., walking very fast for the eight and a half or so kilometers to get to church; then, of course, another eight on the way back after the evening service. In those days, it was all a marvelous experience, because I had Christ in my heart and I felt great when I visited the churches, as I still do."

In 1972, Enrique became the first Nicaraguan pastor of a Brethren in Christ congregation. Two years later he was ordained, and helped to write the constitution and bylaws for the Brethren in Christ Church in Nicaragua. In the same year (1974) he was named president of the church, a position that he held until 1980, when he became executive minister upon the death of Bert Sider.

Enrique describes the beginnings of pastoral leadership training and the difficulties faced by the church with this new focus. "When I began working as executive minister, we started a new stage in our church life—pastoral education. To help the church with this task, Eugene and Ruth Madeira came from the United States to establish a theological training program for the leaders and pastors of the Nicaraguan church.

The Madeiras served until 1981. At that point, Brother Marshall and Eleanor Poe arrived. We worked together until 1987. We would bring many pastors and leaders from the countryside into town to study theology. We also worked in the

## Enrique Palacios Doing God's Work in Nicaragua

by Keith Poe

countryside, traveling long distances to give seminars in the communities where the leaders lived. During that time, we cultivated many young leaders of the church, and they are doing much of the work that I did before.

"A major difficulty that we faced is illustrated in the story of Brother Juan Garcia. He is a very humble man, full of faith and a pastor from the heart. He is a leader in his community. We invited him to come to Managua to study, and he was going to live in my house. He had never been in a large city like Managua, nor did he know about the toilets inside the house. When he had to attend to his needs at the toilet, he got scared of the noise when it flushed. Also the problem was that our bathroom was in the house.

*continued on page 16*



*In 1972,  
Enrique  
became the  
first  
Nicaraguan  
pastor of a  
Brethren in  
Christ  
congregation.  
Two years  
later he was  
ordained, and  
helped to  
write the  
constitution  
and bylaws  
for the  
Brethren in  
Christ Church  
in Nicaragua.  
In the same  
year (1974)  
he was named  
president of  
the church...*

He could not conceive that toilets were in the same building where people lived.

"This brother was really scared, so he left the next morning without even saying good-bye. Jose Leon (who currently leads the expanding Brethren in Christ church work in Honduras) convinced him to return again to Managua by telling him that he could stay in Jose Leon's house, where there was a latrine behind the house. He became more comfortable living there.

"Juan Garcia learned how to read and write and eventually completed his sixth grade of primary school. He is now well-trained in theology and is pastoring a church in Cerro Blanco, Zelaya Central."

Under Enrique's leadership, the Brethren in Christ Church grew especially fast in the eastern part of Nicaragua. Approximately half the churches were located in Zelaya, the most isolated part of the country. When Hurricane Joan hit the coast in 1988, most of the churches in Zelaya were affected. After the hurricane, Enrique started CRADHC, the Brethren in Christ Committee of Reconstruction and Aid for Development, as a development agency of the church to help distribute zinc, building materials, and other supplies to the churches and families affected by the disaster.

A new executive minister was elected in 1990, but Enrique continued to work as the Director of CRADHC and changed its focus from disaster relief to promoting micro-enterprise development. In January 1992, CRADHC began to provide loans and training to poor people in Managua and surrounding areas. Many of the initial clients who received loans and training were Brethren in Christ people who ran small businesses out of their homes. As the program began to grow, it targeted specific areas in Managua, helping mostly poor women who worked in the large city markets or nearby neighborhoods by providing them with some basic business training and a low-interest loan.

In 1990, Rosendo Perez was elected as the new executive minister for the Brethren in Christ Church, after Enrique had served the maximum two terms. Enrique continued to serve the church as the pastor of Bello Horizonte in Managua. Later, as a result of misunderstandings with church leadership, Enrique began a new congregation near his home.

Although Enrique was a very public person and held in awe by many, he could be very personable and down-to-earth. For example, he was always trying to improve his English, but could rarely get beyond "Hello, my brother!" or "Welcome to my house!" and a few other phrases which he would repeat with great enthusiasm followed by a hearty laugh whenever anyone who spoke English was around.

When Henry Ginder and John Hawbaker visited Nicaragua in the early 1980s, Enrique took

them out to Zelaya to visit some of the churches. This involved an eight-hour drive, in Enrique's old blue pick-up truck, to La Esperanza, where they got a boat for the four-hour ride to Huapi. On the way back to Managua, Enrique asked Henry to sit with him in the cab instead of standing up in the back with John and my father. Both joked afterwards about communicating with each other by pointing to things and saying "Alleluia" for eight hours.

Enrique was overweight, especially during the later years of his life. When Karen Bonisteel came to Nicaragua to tutor my sisters and me, she and Enrique had contests to see who could lose the most weight. As a prize, they would treat each other to Pop's ice cream down at the traffic circle in Bello Horizonte, joking the whole week long about their weight and who was winning the contest.

Enrique had major health problems exacerbated by poor eating habits and lack of sufficient exercise. Yet, he was almost always in an up-beat mood, even if he was suffering. When he had severe pain in his lower bowel region around 1992, he would gleefully tell any visitor about it in colorful detail, while explaining that it hurt so much he could not even sit up straight. The visitor, not knowing whether to laugh, could usually manage a polite smile but also sought a hasty retreat. Enrique would then get a tremendous scolding from his wife Teresa, who was horrified at hearing him tell such things to their visitors.

The Brethren in Christ Church in Nicaragua is poor, thus the local congregations usually cannot support their pastors. Most of the pastors have secular jobs to make ends meet. Enrique did the same, and having a knack for business, lived well compared to the rest of the local pastors. He was part owner of a cement block factory for most of the time he was executive minister and never seemed to lack resources. He was known for his generous sharing with pastors and church families. His house seemed to be constantly filled with pastors from the rural areas, and with church members and friends who knew they would get a warm meal and a place to stay whenever they visited him.

In 1993, Enrique's health deteriorated further. He died in his sleep of a heart attack early one morning in May 1993.

Enrique was a success story. He was able to lead the Nicaraguan church at times of great crisis, as during the Sandinista revolution. Though he was a charismatic leader who could be funny and generous, he also had his weaknesses: he was a strong-willed person, thus he managed to get things done his way; he could be a dreamer who at times exaggerated facts to fit his needs. Although he was far from perfect, he was, in the final analysis, an ordinary person who was able to accomplish extraordinary things for God and the Brethren in Christ Church in Nicaragua. **EV**





# God at work in our world

## "Come to me"

Angie Heise, serving the Lord in the Middle East, describes a time when God was at work in her life. Angie is a member of the Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church in Pennsylvania.

I think I always assumed that Matthew 11:28 meant praying and asking for rest. Or maybe it meant trying to follow Jesus and his commands for living life as his follower. However, as I have been trying to do these things they just make me more tired—more demands, more things to think about and sort out. It hasn't been restful like Jesus promised.

This past weekend, I was able to go visit Marti (a good friend) at the hospital where she is working and we had a neat time of prayer. It was so encouraging and restful. It had been a long time since I had sensed the peace that comes from worship and felt the excitement of just worshiping and loving God without my demands and requests getting in the way. I came away from that prayer and worship time rested and refreshed.

Now I am wondering about a new meaning for the words, "Come to me." Could it be that Jesus wants us to come to him and praise him? Come to him and recognize his goodness toward us? Come to him and focus on who he is? Come to him and worship?

Then he can give us rest.

## From onions to dollars

*This article accompanied the gift of money to the Brethren in Christ World Missions office.*

How do you turn an onion into a Bible? Last spring, Joanne Herr was one of four people in her church (Masonville Mennonite) chosen to participate in a stewardship project. She was given \$10 to invest in the project. On April 21 she used \$9.75 to buy a box of spring onions to retail at the local farmers' market where she and her husband sell their produce. Using the profits from that week's sales, she bought more onions to sell. The careful weekly records she kept show that most weeks she was able to retail two boxes of onions, and one week she even marketed three boxes. Another week she added to her receipts the sale of some donated pickles.

Her project ended August 18 with total

gain of \$621.05. Now, how to put to good use the money she had made? Joanne says, "The Lord led me to Kathleen Brandt," another market vendor, whose daughter, Elizabeth, had served with Brethren in Christ World Missions as a nurse in and around Mtshabezi Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe. During those years, Kathleen had sent a number of Bibles to Zimbabwe for Elizabeth to give to people who wanted Bibles, but couldn't afford to buy them. After consulting with BICWM staff and with Elizabeth, they decided it would be best to send the money to the Zimbabwe church and have them purchase the Bibles locally.

No magic needed. By putting onions in the pots and mouths of people in Pennsylvania, Joanne was able to put the Word of God in the hands and hearts of many in Zimbabwe.

## Where 2 or 3 or 15 agree...

A man in Nepal received a piece of gospel literature and decided to send for a correspondence course to learn more about Jesus. He walked five hours to a post office, where he met another man mailing a request for the same material. As they headed toward home, they met a group of men headed for the post office to request the same course. The 15 men agreed to gather for worship on Saturday, and when the Holy Spirit moved in their midst at that meeting, they decided to gather weekly. Praise God for drawing these men to himself and to each other. Thank him for the Teacher that he gives to his children. Ask God to make these men bold and effective witnesses and use them to advance the Kingdom across Nepal.

*Reprinted by permission from Prayer Track News, Volume 7, No. 3*

## Isolation to invitation

Tibetan Buddhists live in some of the world's most remote places; satanic strongholds where devotees are enslaved by a religion that melds Buddha's teachings with "tantra"—a spirit-worshiping mystery religion from India—and the demonology and occult practices of early Tibetan shamans. Rugged terrain and often violent opposition to the gospel have kept Tibetan Buddhists isolated from the good news of God's love.

A church bell in the basement of a Buddhist monastery is the only reminder of the first church in Tibet, destroyed 250 years ago when Buddhist priests killed 40 believers among the Amdo people group. But itinerant missionaries distributing gospel literature and showing the Jesus film have seen significant response to the gospel in the past decade. In one instance, 37 Buddhist monks prayed to receive Christ after viewing the Jesus film. Ask God to prosper the witness of those who work among Tibetan Buddhists. Ask him to encourage believers among Tibetan Buddhist peoples and multiply their numbers. Pray that God would call out workers willing to endure hardship and deprivation to take the light of the gospel to Tibetan Buddhists bound by the powers of darkness.

*Reprinted by permission from Prayer Track News, Volume 7, No. 3* **EV**

## Five begin International Visitor Exchange terms

Five Brethren in Christ young people from Zimbabwe and Zambia are some of the 57 persons from 27 countries participating in this year's International Visitor Exchange Program (IVEP) of MCC.

Most participants spend six months living in one U.S. or Canadian location, meet for a mid-term reunion, then spend six months volunteering at a second location. They receive vocational training in mostly Mennonite agencies, institutions and businesses in the fields of farming, business/accounting, education, pastoral care, social service, computers, construction and building trades.

Precious Mangena of Filabusi, Zimbabwe, is beginning a six-month IVEP assignment in Norristown, Pa., serving as a store clerk with Crossroads Gift and Thrift, Inc.

Calvor Muchindu of Choma, Zambia, is beginning a six-month IVEP assignment in Goshen, Ind., serving as a teacher's assistant at Bethany Christian School.

Gisford Muleya of Mazabuka, Zambia, is beginning a six-month IVEP assignment in Goshen, Ind., serving as a maintenance assistant at Goshen College.

Lindiwe Ncube of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, is beginning a six-month IVEP assignment in Louisville, Ky., serving as a sales clerk at Just Creations.

Wesley Nirwenya of Choma, Zambia, is beginning a six-month IVEP assignment in Hesston, Kan., serving as a daycare teacher's assistant with Hesston Community Child Care. **EV**





# Church News

Notes of Congregational Activities in North America

## Allegheny Conference

The **Air Hill** congregation, Chambersburg, Pa., combined their Sunday school and worship hours Sept. 27 for a presentation entitled "Huddle Up for Jesus" by former Pittsburgh Steeler, Pete Rostovsky. ♦ The **Antrim** congregation, Chambersburg, had a missions week Sept. 13-20 with Curtis Book, the Wingert Family Singers, Norma Hoist, Barb and Friends, John Bayer, and H. Frank Kipe. ♦ Fannie Slick began as minister of congregational care on Sept. 1 for the **Chambersburg** church. Fall Festival Day was Sept. 27 with magician-musician Bruce Hefner. ♦ On Oct. 4 the **Fairview Ave.** congregation, Waynesboro, Pa., gave the musical "Please Don't Send Me to Africa." The Oct. 9-11 missions conference was on "A Heart for the Harvest." ♦ Luke Keefer Jr. led revival services Oct. 1-4 for the **Five Forks** congregation, Waynesboro. ♦ The theme of Sunday school promotion month in

October at the **Hollowell** church, Waynesboro, was "Come Explore the Bible in Sunday School." Craig Sider led revival meetings Oct. 18-21.

Musician Francis Dross participated in the Oct. 4 service of the **Iron Springs** congregation, Fairfield, Pa. ♦ On Sept. 18 the **Martinsburg**, Pa., church hosted the area Red Cross bloodmobile. The Big Valley Men's Chorus was in concert on Sept. 27. ♦ Seven youth and two advisors of the **Montgomery** church, Mercersburg, Pa., took a service trip to Bernville, Pa., recently to fill a container of supplies destined for Uganda. ♦ The **Mt. Tabor** church, Mercersburg, had revival services with Si Lehman Oct. 11-14. On Sept. 12, 29 people of the congregation cleaned up 14 bags of trash from a five-mile stretch of area highway. ♦ A 12-week weight loss seminar, "Weigh Down Workshop," began Sept. 1 at the **New Guilford** church, Chambersburg, Pa. ♦ The

**South Mountain** church, Shippensburg, Pa., hosted New Life for Girls and a carry-in meal on Sept. 27, Fall Rally Day. ♦ On Sept. 13 the **West Side** church, Chambersburg, had a celebration of Sunday school with a continental breakfast and guest Sunday school teachers.

## Atlantic Conference

The **Circle of Hope** congregation, Philadelphia, Pa., had an art opening Sept. 19 featuring the work of area artists. ♦ The **Cross Roads** church, Mount Joy, Pa., hosted a "Super Sunday Splash" swimming and games event on Sept. 13. Jack McClane was renewal speaker Oct. 11-13. ♦ The youth of the **Elizabethtown**, Pa., church had a Sept. 9 worship hour, "Stand on Your Knees." ♦ The Kids for Christ Clubs began Sept. 23 at the **Fairland** church, Cleona, Pa. Spiritual life meetings with Doug Sider were Oct. 25-28. ♦ The sermon Sept. 27 by Paul Hogsett at the **Free Grace** church, Millersburg, Pa., was "Living Out Lordship." ♦ The new **Harvest Community** church, Maytown, Pa., held a Phones For You campaign Sept. 7-28.

The **Hempfield** church, Lancaster, Pa., presented the "Intentional Small Group" program to potential leaders on Sept. 24. John Brubaker and Wilmer Heisey were missions speakers in September. ♦ The men of the **Lancaster** church had a retreat with speaker Ric Feeney Sept. 18-19. ♦ The **Manheim**, Pa., church hosted the Atlantic Conference "Learn a New Song" workshop on Sept. 19. ♦ The Sept. 27 missions emphasis messages at the **Manor** church, Mountville, Pa., were by

John and Esther Spurrier, and Curtis Book. ♦ Kevin Eshleman spoke in the Sept. 20 service of the **Mt. Pleasant** church, Mount Joy, on "The Wisdom of Lepers." A guess-who's-coming-to-dinner was Oct. 10.

A Prime Time for Kids back-to-school retreat was led Sept. 18-19 by the **New Hope** church, Harrisburg, Pa., featuring favorite Veggie Tales characters. ♦ The **New Joy** congregation, Akron, Pa., heard a fall series on "Expecting the Extraordinary in Your Life." ♦ The **Palmyra**, Pa., congregation had their church retreat Oct. 2-4 at Kenbrook Bible Camp. The New Creation, a Southern gospel group, was in concert in the Oct. 18 service. ♦ The **Pequea** church, Lancaster, welcomed nine new members Sept. 13. A get-acquainted night for staff, board, deacons, and new attenders was that evening.

The 50s-plus group of the **Refton**, Pa., church had a retreat Oct. 3-5 at Williams Manor. Pioneer Clubs opening night was Oct. 7. ♦ The **Silverdale**, Pa., congregation had their 14th annual retreat at Kenbrook Bible Camp Sept. 4-6 on the theme "A Time to Remember" with former pastor Omer King. A course on "Understanding Today's Youth Culture" began Oct. 20. ♦ On Oct. 31, the **Skyline View** congregation, Harrisburg, hosted an "Old Testament Walk Through the Bible" seminar. ♦ The **Speedwell Heights** congregation, Lititz, Pa., planned a pig roast at the Jesse Dourte farm for Oct. 3.

## Canadian Conference

Three men of the **Boyle** congregation, St. Ann's, Ont., helped at the Camp Kahquah work bee Oct. 9-12.

## Schedule of Events

Board meetings are held at Grantham, Pa., unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact the denominational office, P.O. Box 290, Grantham, Pa. 17027; phone (717) 697-2634.

1999

Jan. 18-20	Theology of Salvation Core Course
Jan. 28-30	Board for World Missions board meeting
Jan. 28-30	Messiah College Board of Trustees meeting
Feb. 2-4	Leadership Council
Feb. 4-6	General Conference Board
Feb. 11-13	Brethren in Christ Polity Core Course - Upland, Calif.
Mar. 5-6	Pacific Conference
Mar. 14-18	Theology of the Church Core Course (tentative)
Mar. 19-20	Central Conference
Mar. 19-20	Midwest Conference
Mar. 26-27	Atlantic Conference?
Apr. 10	Allegheny Conference
Apr. 16-17	Canadian Conference
Apr. 16-17	Susquehanna Conference
Apr. 19-20	Brethren in Christ Church History Core Course - Wainfleet, Ont.
Apr. 30-May 1	Southeast Conference

## Ministry staff opening

A pastor of youth and adult education is needed at New Guilford Brethren in Christ Church, Chambersburg, Pa. Principal responsibility is with youth. Full-time position. Applicants should have appropriate training and experience. Send personal recommendations or resume to:

Dr. Robert Verno,  
Senior Pastor  
New Guilford Brethren  
in Christ Church  
1575 Mont Alto Road  
Chambersburg, PA  
17201

## Pastor of Music and Worship

The Antrim Brethren in Christ Church, a growing congregation of 500-600 in South Central Pennsylvania, is seeking a full-time person to lead and develop our worship, music, and drama ministries. If interested, please contact Senior Pastor Steve Munger at (717) 375-4658, or write c/o Antrim Brethren in Christ Church, 24 Kauffman Road East, Chambersburg, PA 17201.



The congregation's talent night was planned for Nov. 1. ♦ The **Bridlewood** congregation, Agincourt, Ont., had their eighth annual pig roast on Sept. 19. Friend Day was slated for Sept. 27. ♦ Jaime Allcock and part of the group Heart Attack ministered in the Sept. 27 service of the **Clearview** church, Kindersley, Sask. A family hayride was planned for Oct. 4. ♦ On Sept. 6 the **Heise Hill** congregation had their fall roundup with the magic of "Orion." On Sept. 12 the youth attended "Spirit of Song '98" at Canada's Wonderland. ♦ On Sept. 14 the women of the **Massey Place** church, Saskatoon, Sask., gathered for an evening of book reviews.

The **Oak Ridges**, Ont., church hosted a community outreach/fund day Sept. 12 featuring the Sonshine Gang. ♦ The **Orchard Creek** congregation, St. Catharines, Ont., recently delivered "Top Ten Reasons Why People Don't Go to Church" doorknob flyers in the community. Linda Lambert now has a counseling service at the church. ♦ Becky Mashinter was the Sept. 24 speaker for the ladies night out of the **Port Colborne**, Ont., church. ♦ The **Rosebank** congregation, Petersburg, Ont., heard General Conference reports on Sept. 6 and TIMS missions reports on Sept. 13. One person was baptized on Sept. 20. ♦ Men of the **Sherkston**, Ont., church had breakfast at Betty's Restaurant on Sept. 26. Sewing circle weekly meetings resumed on Tuesdays in September.

The **Springvale**, Ont., church began the 50-Day Adventure: "Untapped Miracles for Tapped Out Christians" on Sept. 27. ♦ On Sept. 13 the **Stayner**, Ont., had a musical presentation by Steve Hall entitled "Chaos to Hope: The Trial of an Average Seeker." ♦ The goal of the Oct. 18 harvest offering of the **Upper Oaks** congregation, Oakville, Ont., was \$20,000. ♦ John and Ethel Sider were welcomed Sept. 13 as associate pastoral couple of the **Wainfleet**, Ont., church. Sept. 13 was fall celebration Sunday, introducing Sunday school programs to the church and community. More than 300 people witnessed the Teen Outreach Ministries Puppet Team. ♦ Throughout September, the **Westheights** congregation, Kitchener, Ont., had several "town meetings" to discuss new statements of mission, vision, and core values.

## Central Conference

John Weaver of the **Wooster**, Ohio, church spoke at the Sept. 6 men's breakfast of the **Amherst** congregation, Massillon, Ohio. The

Amherst church had a golf outing Oct. 3 to benefit the building fund. ♦ The **Bethel** congregation, Cassopolis, Mich., is welcoming Paul and Anita Pawelski as their new pastoral couple. ♦ The **Beulah Chapel** congregation, Springfield, Ohio, planned a Sunday school picnic for Oct. 3 at North Hampton Park. ♦ The **Carland-Zion** church, Owosso, Mich., recently finished extensive renovation of their office space. ♦ On Oct. 10 the **Christian Union** congregation, Garrett, Ind., planned a fall family night: "a feast in a garbage can" and a talent show. ♦ Sept. 13 was Christian Education Sunday at the **Lakeview** church, Goodrich, Mich., beginning with prayer and continental breakfast.

On Sept. 16, Karen Rickel, missionary to Honduras and registered nurse, spoke to the **Mooretown** congregation, Sandusky, Mich. ♦ On Oct. 4 Lester and Leota Mann shared with the **Morrison**, Ill., congregation about their experiences at Macha Hospital, Zambia. ♦ On Oct. 4 the **Northgate** fellowship, Tipp City, Ohio, had their nursing home ministry and a carry-in meal. The youth sponsored a fund raiser Oct. 10-11 at the West Milton Heritage Festival. ♦ The **Pleasant Hill**, Ohio, congregation had recognition of Sunday school teachers on Aug. 30 with a breakfast during the Sunday school hour. ♦ The **Sippo Valley** church, Massillon, Ohio, has a new furnace, air conditioning, and insulation. ♦ The **Union Grove** church, New Paris, Ind., hosted the October Michiana women's retreat with speaker Nettie Meyer on "Making Scents on Life." ♦ Bishop Byers addressed the Sept. 18 council meeting of the **Valley Chapel** church, East Canton, Ohio. A high attendance of 65 was enjoyed on Sept. 27.

## Midwest Conference

Eight women from the **Bethany** congregation, Thomas, Okla., attended the Midwest Conference Women's retreat in Colorado Springs on Sept. 25. On Sept. 9 teens and children began meetings, as well as two adult groups studying "Master Your Money" and "Higher Ground: Steps Toward Christian Maturity." ♦ The **Rosebank** congregation, Hope, Kan., hosted a pie and ice cream fellowship following the Sept. 20 area churches joint service. ♦ The **Zion** congregation, Abilene, Kan., had a food shower Sept. 27 for Kerri and Patti Coup.

## Pacific Conference

The **Chino**, Calif., congregation had their annual family camp Sept.



# E.V. TimeLines

Selected from the archives of the EVANGELICAL VISITOR

## 100 Years Ago

Nov. 15, 1898—George S. Grim, of Louisville, Ohio, in a short article titled "How To Be Wretched": "In order to be miserable, just think much of yourself—

about what *I* want; what people ought to think of me; what respect people ought to give to me; how people ought to highly regard me and place me in a position of honor and trust for the reason that I can do this or that work so much better than my brother, he being not qualified so well! Oh, if wretched man could only see what he makes of himself and those around him when *self* comes up so prominently...."

## 75 Years Ago

Nov. 12, 1923—In an article titled "A Timely Admonition" quoted from *Pentecostal Herald*: "It is high time we take a backward step toward old-fashioned Bible holiness. Some of our leaders in popular holiness circles are so worldly, both in inward condition and outward appearance, they look like Ringling Brothers' show had passed through and lost them out of the wagon."

## 50 Years Ago

Nov. 15, 1948—Editor John Hostetter, commenting on the U.S. election: "Leading pollsters have suffered a serious upset in their work. Their reliability seems to be a thing of the past.... Leading columnists find themselves out on a limb that was quickly sawed out from under them. These embarrassments have led to great efforts to save face and try to analyze what really happened.... It is not the purpose of these columns to analyze elections nor their outcome, for a basic scriptural truth must be recognized in the realm of rulership: Daniel 2:21: 'He removeth kings and setteth up kings.'"

## 25 Years Ago

Nov. 10, 1973—John E. Zercher editorialized: "The person who sees his blessings as a result and a reward of his own effort and ability is either an atheist or an ingrate. In the first chapter of Romans, Paul lists ingratitude as a milestone on the road to degeneracy and judgment.... There is the temptation to see our spiritual life as all of grace and our temporal life as all of works. This is a distinction that the Bible knows nothing about."

## 10 Years Ago

November 1988—In a "Money Matters" column entitled "How a Brethren in Christ ministry changed my life," Luella Lofthouse writes: "Learning to read as a child was a big event in my life.... Today I am rich in Christian friendships and our periodicals keep me informed about news, outreach in this country, and missions abroad. Wherever I go I meet brothers and sisters I have met before in our literature. In heaven our friends will be known and loved, and we will meet many which we now know only by name on the printed page."



25-27 with speaker Bob Hempy. ♦ The **Pacific Highway** church, Salem, Ore., had VBS on Aug. 19, 26, and Sept. 2 on "Heroes of the Bible." Ventriloquist Ken Tibbs and pal Zeke the Cowboy Dummy were guests the first night. ♦ Mike Rowland has joined the ministry team of the **Upland**, Calif., church to teach the twenty-somethings and help with intercessory prayer.

### Southeast Conference

The youth of the **Highland Park** congregation, Dublin, Va., had a car wash Sept. 19 in Pulaski. The music

and worship team and their families planned a cookout for Sept. 12. ♦ Curtis Book, missionary to Colombia, preached in the Sept. 20 service of the **Millerfields** congregation, Columbia, Ky. The male quartet from Union Bible College sang in the Oct. 18 homecoming service.

### Susquehanna Conference

Speakers for the Sept. 5-6 missions conference at the **Big Valley** church, Belleville, Pa., were John and Esther Spurrier, John and Ethel Sider, and Norma Hoist. Elias Moyo from London led revival services

Sept. 20-27. ♦ The men's Bible study of the **Carlisle**, Pa., church on Sept. 16 was led by Jim Sloat of Dickinson College on "God's Dirty Dozen: Real Men with Character." ♦ On Oct. 10 the **Cedar Grove** church, Mifflintown, Pa., was host for an MPF retreat with Phyllis Engle, and George and Rachel Kibler. In September, Pastor Letner began a book-by-book journey through the Bible on Wednesday nights. ♦ Arlene Miller led renewal services Sept. 20-22 for the **Dillsburg**, Pa., church on "Living Out Your Faith in the Workplace." ♦ Don Shafer spoke

on Sept. 20, Senior Citizens Day, to the **Fairview** congregation, New Cumberland, Pa. The men from Messiah Village gave a music program that evening.

The **Grantham**, Pa., church had their building dedication the afternoon of Sept. 13 with speaker Jay Barnes and music by the choirs and brass ensemble. ♦ The Oct. 11 missions speaker at the **Green Grove** church, Spring Mills, Pa., was H. Frank Kipe. On Nov. 1 the congregation had family talent night. ♦ On Oct. 8-10 the **Mechanicsburg**, Pa., church hosted "Interceding for Your

## MONEY MATTERS

# Let's celebrate

by Philip D. Keefer

*Philip D. Keefer is Director of Stewardship for the Brethren in Christ Church.*

### Cooperative Ministries

Receipts, Year to Date

Jan. 1-Sept. 30, 1998

	United States		Canada	
	1998	1997	1998	1997
<b>Proportionate</b>	1,619,308	1,572,619	277,186	271,189
Congregational	1,534,036	1,472,985	277,186	269,641
Individual	85,272	99,634	0	154,857
<b>Designated and Direct Giving</b>	596,068	529,057	36,554	47,455
Congregational	275,697	212,469	36,554	45,805
Individual	320,371	316,588		1,650
<b>Total to Date</b>	<u>2,215,376</u>	<u>2,101,676</u>	<u>277,186</u>	<u>271,189</u>
Total Budget	3,768,911	3,877,632	452,000*	419,300*
<b>Received to Date</b>	58.7%	54.2%	62%	65%

\*Note: Canadian Conference total budget does not include designated or direct giving.

God has been good! Because of his goodness, we celebrate his faithfulness in the many ways in which he has enabled us to be an effective contributor to his larger church.

We celebrate the centennial of Brethren in Christ World Missions.

We celebrate the faithfulness of generations of God-fearing Christians who have responded to his call and service in his church through the Brethren in Christ.

We celebrate the birth and discipleship of hundreds of thousands of people throughout the world who have been added to God's church through the ministry of the Brethren in Christ.

We celebrate the vision of "250 Growing, Discipling, Sending Congregations by A.D. 2000" as projected to be fulfilled in 1999.

We celebrate the continued growth in giving of the Brethren in Christ Church to world missions, church planting, congregational development, compassion, and leadership ministries.

A gift from you today, whether it's \$5 or \$500, would be put to good use. Your gift will help support a team of more than 900 men, women and children called by God, gifted by God, and serving God in 19 countries around the world.

### Why should you give?

Your gift will enable 106 missionaries and their children to minister in Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and in North America.

Your gift will enable 162 church planters and their children to minister in eight states and two provinces in North America.

Your gift will enable the training of 512 people.

Your gift will enable 103 nationals to serve in various capacities in 14 countries, including Nepal and Tibet.

Your gift will enable 37 support staff to engage their God-given gifts on behalf of 888 churches and 69,450 Brethren in Christ members worldwide.

Your gift impacts a great variety of ministries. With one contribution, you will make a difference in world missions, church planting, congregational development, compassion ministries, and leadership ministries all at one time.

### What difference does your gift make?

Your gift will make a difference for the ministry of Rod and Gwen White in central Philadelphia as they plant a non-traditional church.



City III" with speakers Eddie and Alice Smith, Ron Campbell, Mike McCausland, and Dave Hess. ♦ The **Messiah Village** church, Mechanicsburg, welcomed 11 new members in September. ♦ The **Redland Valley** church, York Haven, Pa., had their annual pig roast Sept. 20. A couples retreat was hosted at Penn Del Conference Center Oct. 2-4 with psychologist and counselor, Dr. and Mrs. David Leaman. ♦ The women's auxiliary of the **Wesley** church, Mt. Holly Springs, Pa., had a yard and food sale on Sept. 25-26.

## For The Record

### Births

**Barley:** Boyd Douglas, Sept. 14; Jeff and Lori (Ulmer) Barley, Manor congregation, Pa.

**Barton:** Nathaniel Scott, May 13; Jim and Kim (Kimmel) Barton, Mechanicsburg congregation, Pa.

**Conver:** Austin Daniel, Sept. 15; Troy and Heather (Ebersole Smith) Conver, Pequea congregation, Pa.

**Craig:** Hunter Douglas, Sept. 24; Roy and Aimee (Weller) Craig, Fairland congregation, Pa.

**Earl:** Andrew Michael, Aug. 30; Mike and Linda (Vanderbent) Earl, Heise Hill congregation, Ont.

**Fisher:** Ross Michael, Sept. 16; Robert and Robin Fisher, Fairland congregation, Pa.

**Geib:** Kendall Rianne, Sept. 23; John and Jenn (Dusza) Geib, Silverdale congregation, Pa.

**Grenko:** Caleb Matthew, Sept. 9; Ron and Donna (Va Regenmorter) Grenko, Elizabethtown congregation, Pa.

**Herr:** Bonnie Leigh, Sept. 11; Troy and Debra (Drager) Herr, Pequea congregation, Pa.

**Horton:** Anna Elizabeth, Sept. 18; Tim and Beth Horton, Mechanicsburg congregation, Pa.

**Hostetter:** Nathaniel Robert, Aug. 5; Robert and Donna Hostetter, Mechanicsburg congregation, Pa.

**Hunt:** Kelly Marie, Sept. 22; Barry and Lori (Emich) Hunt, Manor congregation, Pa.

**Keck:** Colton Lee, May 18; Dana and Kim (Fahnestock) Keck, Wesley congregation, Pa.

Your gift of \$700 can provide the equivalent of one year's support for a church planter in Nepal.

Your gift will make a difference in the life and ministry of Bishop Craig Sider as he serves the Atlantic and Southeast Regional Conferences.

Your gift of \$1,000 would be equivalent to a pastor's library in Mexico.

Your gift will make a difference for Pastor Jaques as he pastors the first Haitian Brethren in Christ Church located in Miami.

Your gift of \$350 is the equivalent of one year's support of a church planter in Orissa, India.

### Will the world be a better place because of your gift?

God declares, "It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it" (Isaiah 55:11).

So we say with confidence:

Yes! God's Word is being taught to people like Brett Hempy, Felix Sanchez, Willie Beaton, Maria Marengo Soza, and Benedict Ndlovu. An additional 507 church leaders and church workers are being trained for effective ministry. Think about the impact these people will have in the context of God's promise in Isaiah.

Yes! Ana and Maria are two women Melanie Hawbaker disciples in Colombia. The world is a better place because of Melanie's discipling ministry.

Yes! York, Pennsylvania, is a better place for the 150 people who attended the opening service of Pathway Community Church on November 1, 1998.

Yes! Pedro Jose Mendez' Mexico is a better place because of the revival they are experiencing in the Brethren in Christ Church there. LeRoy Eberly reports, "We are experiencing revival in Mexico! The crowd was so large that we needed extra seats."

Yes! The world is a better place because of the Cristo Vive (Jesus Lives) Church in Miami, Florida. With 600 members, it is the largest of the Miami-area Brethren in Christ churches. In ten years of ministry, Pastor Rene Perez has seen many changes. "In the beginning," he says, "The Jehovah's Witnesses next door would park over here because there were so few of us. Now we park over there!"

I close with a story about Misha and Charlie. Misha is a young man 24 years of age. He broadcasts music and Christian programs in orphanage buildings in Romania. Misha is paralyzed from the waist down and gets around just fine. A friend, Charlie, who has Down's syndrome and cannot hear or speak, carries him on his shoulders.

It is reported that judging by the smile on Charlie's face, carrying Misha around on his shoulders is his mission in life. According to a worker in the orphanage, when Misha was gone for a few weeks, his friend Charlie didn't know what to do. What a picture of the body of Christ relying on one another! Each of our Cooperative Ministries team members is a little like Misha. They are not fully equipped to do their work of making Christ known; they need the "legs" your support provides for them.

Will you consider a generous contribution for the Cooperative Ministries Team of 917 people called by God, gifted by God, and serving God? Please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

Cooperative Ministries  
Brethren in Christ Church  
P.O. Box 290  
Grantham, PA 17027-0290.

Canadian contributions can be sent to:

Cooperative Ministries  
Brethren in Christ Church  
2619 Niagara Parkway  
Fort Erie, ON, Canada L2A 5M4.

Thank you for joining in the celebration. Contributions must be postmarked by midnight December 31, 1998, in order to receive a 1998 tax-deductible receipt.



**Kreider:** Meg Emma, Sept. 8; Kenneth and Kelly (Hart) Kreider, Pequea congregation, Pa.

**Martin:** Conaley Paige, July 28; Matthew and Marcia (Thomas) Martin, Mechanicsburg congregation, Pa.

**Messinger:** Kelsey Alexandria, May 18; Matt and Candace (Crumlich) Messinger, Harrisburg congregation, Pa.

**Miller:** Ryan Andrew, Sept. 1; Leon and Carol (Balmer) Miller, Manor congregation, Pa.

**Peffer:** Levi Douglas, Sept. 22; Adam and Debbie (Stanton) Peffer, Carland-Zion congregation, Mich.

**Sampsel:** Leanna Louise, Nov. 15, 1997; Troy and Kim (Rider) Sampsel, Green Grove congregation, Pa.

**Selkirk:** Josiah Trevor, Apr. 6; Chris and Sherry Selkirk, Mechanicsburg congregation, Pa.

**Tanguay:** Devin Donald, Aug. 19; Donald and Anita Tanguay, Port Colborne congregation, Ont.

**Templeton:** Erin Nicole, Oct. 6; Mark and Dawn (Snyder) Templeton, Elizabethtown congregation, Pa.

**Ulery:** Ryan David, May 31; Kirk and Brenda Brubaker-Ulery, Harrisburg congregation, Pa.

**Wagaman:** Morgan Taylor, Sept. 5; Douglas and Julie Wagaman, Five Forks congregation, Pa.

**Weaver:** Shannon Marie Hannah, Sept. 22; Sheldon and Dana (Hannah) Weaver, Martinsburg congregation, Pa.

**Zary:** Emmalyn Anne, Aug. 24; Derek and Michelle Zary, Massey Place congregation, Sask.

## Weddings

**Balicki-Gyugyei:** Barbara, daughter of Andrew and Hilda Gyugyei, Welland, Ont., and Michael, son of Garry and Sandra Balicki, Wainfleet, Ont., Sept. 19, at Wainfleet Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Charles Mashinter officiating.

**Bendlis-Lane:** Jennifer Elizabeth, daughter of Gordon and Kathy Lane, Fenwick, Ont., and Joshua Wayne Bendlis, son of Lupe Chavez, Welland, Ont., and Joshua Bendlis, Nicaragua, Sept. 5, at Boyle Brethren in Christ Church with Archdeacon Laughton O. Binns and Rev. Darryn Colp officiating.

**Du-Heise:** Deena Marie, daughter of Dave and Jean Heise, Lowbanks, Ont., and Mon Du, son of Hoa Pham, Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 12, at Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. James Spurrier officiating.

**Engle-Nigh:** Ruth Anne, daughter of Arnold and Marlene Nigh, Springvale, Ont., and Philip Nevin, son of Nevin and Mary Ann Engle, Grantham, Pa., Sept. 5, at Springvale Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. James Spurrier officiating.

**Hess-Andrews:** Melody Lynn Andrews, daughter of Gail and Abel Rios, and Keith and Eileen Andrews, and Jeremiah Lee, son of Jay and Sharon Hess, Albuquerque, N. M., Sept. 19, at Willow Valley Chapel with Rev. J. Daniel Houck officiating.

**Roik-South:** Jennifer, daughter of Robert and Bonnie-Jean South, Dunnville, Ont., and Darren, son of George and Carolyn Roik, Dunnville, Sept. 19, at Wainfleet Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Charles Mashinter officiating.

**Rudy-Triece:** Etty Louise Triece and Wilbur Rudy, Aug. 22, at Grantham Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Robert B. Ives officiating.

**Selkirk-Blake:** Suzanne Margaret, daughter of Ivan and Gertie Blake, Hanover, Ont., and Andrew Leslie, son of Donald and Jennifer Selkirk, Kanata, Ont., Sept. 5, at Hanover Missionary Church with Rev. Keith Wiggin officiating.

**Sweeney-Dickinson:** Lora Denise, daughter of Randy and Jeanne Dickinson, Bridgeton, N.J., and Jarrett Alan Sweeney, son of LaDonna and Charles Miller, Boiling Springs, Pa., May 31, at Marlboro Seventh Day Adventist Church with Rev. Larry Graffius officiating.

## Obituaries

**Blyholder:** Edith S. Blyholder, born Jan. 22, 1912, daughter of Richard and Beulah Reed Sommerville, died Aug. 20. Preceding her in death was her husband, John F. Blyholder. Surviving are two daughters, Carol B. Cornman and Diane B. Thomas; and four grandchildren. Edith was a resident at Messiah Village since 1987. She was a former member of Market Square Presbyterian Church where she was a deacon, and a member of the Zee Legionette Zembo Temple Legion of Honor, Commendary Auxiliary of Zembo Temple, and the Highland Park Women's Club. She was an associate member of the Messiah Village church, where the memorial service was held with Rev. Marion J. Heisey officiating. Interment was in Cumberland Valley Memorial Gardens.

**Hettinger:** Lola Mae Hettinger, born Sept. 11, 1923, daughter of Walter and Romaine Conser Sheasley, died Aug. 31. Her husband, Ralph Hettinger, died in 1979. Lola was a member of the Green Grove congregation, Pa., where she taught Sunday school and Bible school for 34 years, was a member of the Dorcas sewing circle and church board, and was church treasurer. The funeral was at the Neff Funeral Home with Rev. Paul Smucker officiating. Interment was in Dunns-town Cemetery.

**McBeth:** Paul W. McBeth, born Aug. 14, 1908, in Springfield, Ohio, son of William J. and Marguerite Pfeiffer McBeth, died Aug. 24. His wife, S. Esther McBeth, preceded him in death. Surviving are his wife, Fannie (Longenecker); 4 sons, David P., Joseph W., Ethan R., and John H.; a daughter, Rachel Brand; 10 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren. Paul ministered at several Brethren in Christ congregations: Conoy, Hollowell, Mowersville, and Antrim, and in Arcadia, Fla. He was the first staff director of Sunday school for the denomination and

served separate terms as secretary and treasurer of the National Sunday School Assoc. He was the first president of the Evangelical Fellowship of Cumberland Valley, and the founding manager of Christian Light Bookstores. He cofounded the McBeth Corp, a creator and distributor of religious gift products. Paul was a member of the Messiah Village congregation, Pa., where the memorial service was held with Rev. Marion J. Heisey and Rev. John B. Hawbaker officiating. Interment was in Grantham Memorial Park.

## Tribute

For many people the name Paul McBeth and the promotion of Sunday school go hand in hand. Bro. McBeth gave himself to the ministry of the church in many ways. We are grateful for his life and service among us. We pay honor and respect to him with thanks to God.

Paul wrote about his calling to the Christian ministry and tied it to the work of the Lord in his life as a young boy. He found the Lord as his personal Savior at age eight. About a week later he wondered what it meant to be sanctified. He went to the altar to pray: "During this event I made a complete surrender of consecration to the Lord although I did not know exactly what was involved. It was at this time that the Lord called me to the ministry—a clear call that I never could doubt, though I tried in my teen years to put it aside."

Paul eventually attended Messiah College. His life as a student and the many ways he gave himself to the work of the college is well worth reading about. In this setting he began to develop his preaching skill, and share in the spiritual life and development of other students. Out of this experience he came to understand that "preaching is serious business. Souls of people are eternity bound. In the ministry of the Word...we must keep in focus the ultimate end of life's journey... Every individual...must answer the question, 'Where will I spend eternity?'"

Paul W. McBeth gave himself to the work of the larger church, as well as the local congregation. Paul had a passion for what could be done through the Sunday school. He could see the possibility of how this ministry could be used in evangelism and growing Christian disciples. His enthusiasm was contagious and greatly used of God.

It is a privilege to give honor to Paul W. McBeth on behalf of the Brethren in Christ Church in North America. He was a brother who walked in our midst, serving and

effectively. And here is where you come in.

You can pray with us that God will capture the hearts of the people through the beauty which they hear and see in their first visit to church.

"Are souls being saved?" Wedding evangelism is actually "pre-evangelism"—that is, it is making the *initial* contact with people who have never heard before and who have felt no interest formerly in going to church. How much we need your prayers that this begin-

ning will grow into fruit at a later time! We want them to realize that what they are feeling is the presence of Jesus! Our brief contact with the wedding guests is most likely the very first crack ever in the door of their minds concerning the God who is alive and wants to walk with us.

Will you join us in praying that the Holy Spirit will capture the minds—and through the minds, *the souls*—of the people in Japan who attend chapel weddings?





demonstrating faithful obedience to Jesus his Savior. He was open to the call of the church, recognizing the church's call as synonymous with God's call in his life.

We express the love and sympathy of the church to the family. We also encourage you with the words of our Master, which have already been spoken to Paul W. McBeth: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

Kenneth O. Hoke  
General Secretary, Brethren in Christ Church, North America

**Peachey:** Simon J. Peachey, born Jan. 13, 1935, son of Simon J. and Susan Bawel Peachey, died Sept. 23. Preceding him in death was a brother, Stephen E. Surviving are his wife, Esther (Yoder); five children, Joyce Burkholder, Esther Crawford, Deborah Mansell, Allen R., and Rosella J. Peachey; seven grandchildren; and eight brothers and sisters. Simon was a dairy farmer until 1990, and did log hauling for several years. He was a board member and trustee of the Big Valley congregation, Pa., as well as representative to the Big Valley MDS, and member of the Big Valley Ambulance Club. The funeral was held at Valley View Amish Mennonite Church with Rev. John M. Keefer and Rev. J. Richard Lehman officiating. Interment was in Locust Grove Cemetery.

**Schaeffer:** Phyllis B. Schaeffer, born Nov. 9, 1921, daughter of David and Wilda Myers Bowers, died Sept. 3. Her husband, Clyde F. Schaeffer, preceded her in death. Surviving are a son, Clyde L.; three grandchildren; and two sisters, Grace Hamilton and Mabel Mowery. Phyllis attended the Air Hill congregation, Pa. The funeral was held at Folschinger-Bricker Funeral Home with Rev. Marlin K. Ressler officiating. Interment was in Spring Hill Cemetery.

**Steckley:** Peter Heise Steckley, born Dec. 8, 1899, in Whitchurch Township, Ont., son of Bishop Peter and Sarah Heise Steckley, died Aug. 9. Preceding him in death were five brothers and seven sisters. Surviving are two sons, Clyde and Keith; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and a sister, Cora Cloak. Peter was a farmer and carpenter. He was a member of the Oak Ridges congregation, Ont. The funeral was held at the Heise Hill church with Rev. Ken Smith and Rev. Bob Lewis officiating. Interment was in the Heise Hill cemetery.

# TIMS—Teens In Missionary Service 1999 Summer Missions Teams

## Zimbabwe

### Work/Evangelism Team

June 20-July 30

Following Training Camp, you and your team will fly over the Atlantic Ocean to London, England, where you may have time for sight-seeing and souvenir shopping. Your team will then board a plane bound for Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. After refueling, you will have a short flight to the city of Bulawayo. Your team will have opportunity to help build a church for one of the area congregations or travel to the Ekuphileni Bible Institute where you will help with repairs and painting. Housing for your team will be with career missionaries and church families in the area. The team will participate in church services and do village-to-village outreach. Debrief will take place at the Christian Retreat Center.

Contribution equal to: \$3220.00 US

## Guatemala

### Work/Evangelism Team

June 20-July 30

Experience a cross-cultural summer you will never forget in beautiful Guatemala. After Training Camp, your team will fly to Guatemala City, where the team will help construct a church and house for the pastoral couple in Boca del Monte. The team will have opportunity to use dramas, singing, and testimonies in programs for nine congregations of the Mennonite Church in the metropolitan areas of Guatemala City. The team will share in evangelistic outreach and minister with the youth groups of the congregations. Debrief will be at the Christian Retreat Center.

Contribution equal to: \$2135.00 US

## Venezuela

### Work/Evangelism Team

June 20-July 30

After Training Camp, you will fly over the beautiful Caribbean Ocean to the fascinating city of Caracas, Venezuela. Your team will help build a parsonage for one of the local pastors, and construct housing at the new Brethren in Christ camp. You will have opportunity for street ministry using dramas, group singing, and balloon ministry while at the camp and on weekends in the city. Your team will experience the blessing of being housed with local church people and ministering in church services. Practice your Spanish while shopping for souvenirs such as pottery, maracas, hammocks, and clothing. Debrief will be at the Christian Retreat Center.

Contribution equal to: \$2011.00 US

## Malawi

### Work/Evangelism Team

June 20-July 30

After Training Camp, your team will take off for the beautiful African country of Malawi. While there, your team will do painting projects at the Malawi Church Center in the city of Blantyre. Your team will have opportunity for evangelism outreach in nearby communities and using surveys, assist the church to identify those who need Christ and might be drawn into their fellowship. The team will participate in church services. There may be some time for sight-seeing and souvenir shopping. Debrief will be at the Christian Retreat Center.

Contribution equal to: \$3440.00 US

## Nicaragua

### Work/Evangelism Team

June 20-July 30

Hola! Spend your summer in some Central American tropical terrain. After Training Camp, you will fly to Managua, Nicaragua. There your team will work side by side with the Nicaraguan people in rural church building repairs. You will also help with repairs at the mission compound where you will be staying, and have the opportunity to minister in churches through dramas and testimonies, as well as balloon ministry for children. The team will conduct Bible clubs every afternoon. Housing will be at the Mission Compound. There will be time for sight-seeing and shopping for souvenirs such as hammocks, pottery, and clothing. Debrief will be held at the Christian Retreat Center.

Contribution equal to: \$1988.00 US

## New Mexico

### Work/Evangelism Team

June 20-July 30

Spend part of your summer vacation living in New Mexico, the "Land of Enchantment." Immediately following Training Camp, you will fly to Albuquerque, New Mexico. From there, your team will travel to the Navajo Indian Reservation located three hours north. While at the Brethren in Christ Mission in Navajo-land, your team will be replacing the roof of a house on the Mission and painting for the Mission. You will be conducting Bible clubs and helping with gym nights, as well as church services. Housing for your team will be in a dormitory setting at the Mission. Along with this busy work schedule, you will still have time for hiking the Mesa, sight-seeing, and shopping for Navajo-made souvenirs. Debrief will be at the Christian Retreat Center.

Contribution equal to: \$1635.00 US

## Southern California

### Urban Evangelism Team

June 20-July 30

Experience a cross-cultural summer in our own sunny Southern California. After Training Camp, your team will fly to Ontario, California, where you and your team will be based. Housing will be at the Ontario Brethren in Christ Church or with church families. While there, your team will have the opportunity to use their evangelism training in friendship evangelism among the inner-city teens that come to the youth center in the evenings. The team will also get to use their dramas, testimonies, group singing, and balloons in weekend rallies and local church services. The team will have other opportunities for outreach, possibly on Catalina Island. Debrief will be at the Christian Retreat Center.

Contribution equal to: \$1625.00 US

**Yes, I want to join a TIMS Team  
and serve this summer!  
Please send me an application.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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Evangelism Team Leaders  
☐ Youth Group Workcamps

### TIMS

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Phone: (717) 734-3627  
FAX: (717) 734-3339  
E-mail: crctims2@jc-net.com



## NCC REPORTS

# Educating young people

### Recruitment

Niagara Christian Collegiate (N.C.C.) actively recruits students in Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea, Cayman Islands, Mexico, and North America. Administrators from the school visit education fairs in various cities in these countries. As well, N.C.C. maintains relationships with a network of agents and contacts in these and other countries. As a result, students from ten different countries are currently at N.C.C. The international community that this promotes is a key part



of the educational emphasis at the school. Students are encouraged to learn from other cultures. Banquets celebrate the different traditions and customs involved in a variety of cultures. A program called "Bridge the Gap" partners North American students with international students to stimulate dialogue and understanding. By actively recruiting students from around the world, N.C.C. promotes a global education.

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**Mennonite  
Central  
Committee  
Canada**

Mennonite Central Committee Canada seeks applications for the position of

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director is the chief executive officer of Mennonite Central Committee Canada.

All applicants must exhibit a commitment to a personal Christian faith and discipleship, active membership in a Mennonite or Brethren in Christ church, and nonviolent peacemaking.

*Please direct enquiries to Search Committee members:*

John Wiens (chair) – (604) 434-5358  
Pauline Hogan – (905) 688-0361  
Willie Stoesz – (204) 377-4724  
Ed Barkman – (204) 254-7734  
Lori Unger Brandt – (204) 284-7881

*Please direct applications to:*

John Wiens  
Executive Director Search Committee  
c/o Mennonite Central Committee Canada  
134 Plaza Drive  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 5K9  
Fax: (204) 269-9875

*Review of applications will begin on January 31, 1999 and will continue until a suitable candidate is selected.*

### English as a Second Language (E.S.L.) Program

A key part of the educational pro-

*The perfect Christmas gift*

**Children's videos from Mennonite Central Committee** teach about conflict resolution, mending friendships and keeping trivial arguments from growing into bigger disputes.

In **Folktales of Peace** and **Folktales of Peace II**, storytellers bring to life tales from Africa, North America, Marshall Islands and Wales.

Beautifully illustrated, **African Tales** includes three African fables and a segment about a child in Zaire.

**To order** these videos, send your check for \$25 Cdn./\$20 U.S. per video to MCC at either address. Pennsylvania residents include 6% sales tax.



**Mennonite  
Central  
Committee**

**Mennonite Central Committee**  
21 South 12th Street, PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500  
(717) 859-1151

**Mennonite Central Committee Canada**  
134 Plaza Drive, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5K9  
(204) 261-6381 or toll free (888) 622-6337



*Pictured is one of NCC's classrooms.*

### Computer Facilities

A recent donation of computers has allowed Niagara Christian Collegiate to expand its computer facilities. N.C.C. has a computer laboratory with 26 computers and Internet access. A new classroom computer facility has also been opened to provide specialized opportunities for international students with software focusing on English as a Second Language. Each seventh and eighth grade class also has had expanded computer facilities developed this past summer.

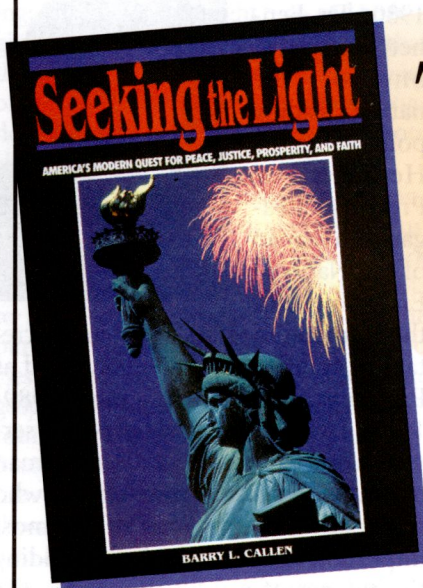
### Co-operative Education Program

One of the exciting educational areas that Niagara Christian Collegiate has developed an excellent reputation for over the past five years has been a Co-operative Education Program. Students are able to receive credit for work which they conduct in local organizations. Students work in government, dental and doctors offices, fire stations, classrooms, churches, and in other areas that they may have an interest in. The student receives pre-job training at N.C.C., as well as significant amounts of time "on-site" in developing marketable job skills.

Through these types of initiatives, as well as the regular academic program, Niagara Christian Collegiate provides an excellent education for its students. Nearly 100 percent of N.C.C. students pursue university and college educations. The education these graduates received at N.C.C. is foundational in their future endeavours.

*Articles about Niagara Christian Collegiate are appearing in the Evangelical Visitor to provide Brethren in Christ members an opportunity to learn more about this Brethren in Christ high school located near Niagara Falls, Canada. The first number of articles will focus on the mission statement of the school:*

*"In an international, family-like school, to educate young people, equip them to live the Christian lifestyle, and empower them to make a difference in the world."*



*"In this engaging and very personal book, Barry Callen offers a provocative analysis of the 20th century in light of the values and ideals of America's founders. READ THIS BOOK! It not only helps to make sense of contemporary America, but it also signals the dawning of hope at the turning of the millennium."*

—Senator Mark O. Hatfield

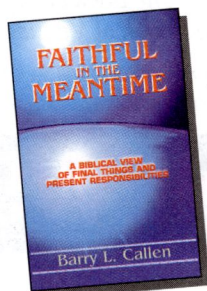
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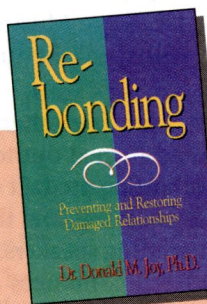
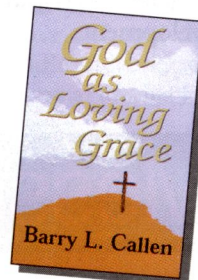
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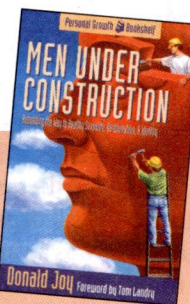
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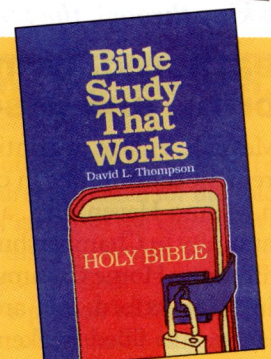


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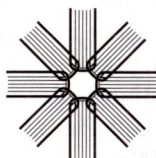
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# MESSIAH COLLEGE NEWS

## Former U.S. Secretary of Education Bill Bennett delivers inaugural address for new leadership center at Messiah College

Dr. William Bennett, former U.S. secretary of education and the best-selling author of *The Book of Virtues*, presented a public lecture, "The Importance of Character and Values in Leadership," at Messiah College on Oct. 7, in Eisenhower Campus Center.

Dr. Bennett's lecture was the inaugural address for Messiah's Center for Leadership Development, a unique new program which provides and equips regional business and civic leaders with character-based leadership training and development.

During the 1980s, Dr. Bennett emerged as one of the nation's leading political figures. He served as President Reagan's chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (1981-1985) and secretary of education (1985-1988), and as President Bush's "drug czar" (1989-1990). During his decade of public service, he earned the reputation as a man of strong, reasoned convictions, who spoke candidly on some of the most important issues of the time including the reform of public education, the American drug culture, and other related social policy.

A best-selling author, Dr. Bennett has also written and edited nearly a dozen books. His most recent works include: *The Death of Outrage: Bill Clinton and the Assault on American Ideals*; *Our Sacred Honor*; *The Book of Virtues*; and *The Children's Book of Virtues*.



Dr. Bennett holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Texas and a law degree from Harvard University. He is currently a John M. Olin distinguished fellow at the Heritage Foundation and co-director of Empower America.

### About the Center for Leadership Development

Directed by Dr. Steven Musser, professor of management at Messiah College, the Center for Leadership Development will offer a wide variety of programs including: public conferences and seminars on leadership issues, with a special emphasis on character and values; academic conferences on the conceptual development of a character/value based model of leadership; workshops to train and develop leadership within existing management teams; a community speaker's bureau offering a variety of leadership topics; a website with online access to a broad variety of leadership materials and resources; four-week executive leader internship programs for students; and networking opportunities for students with prominent regional and national leaders.

Dr. Musser holds a master's degree in economics and a doctorate in organizational behavior from Temple University. He has developed and facilitated numerous leadership programs based on his original research and has consulted with a variety of organizations including AMP, Inc., Kraft/General Foods, IBM, Corning, Highmark Blue Shield, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Navy. Dr. Musser's research and articles on leadership and organizational change are frequently published in both professional and practitioner journals and books. His current research centers on the importance of character and values on leadership in the information era. He is a member of the Academy of Management, the American Management Association, the International Association of Management, the International Association for Conflict Management, and the Society for Human Resource Management. **EV**

## Messiah Village NEWS

### Trekking through the middle years Weathered, wrinkled, worthy, and wise

Messiah Village, a continuing care retirement community, in conjunction with Menno Haven, Inc., a retirement community in Chambersburg, Pa., and the Brethren Home Community, located in New Oxford, Pa., are hosting a dynamic, fun-filled weekend for middle-aged singles and couples. The weekend is February 26-28, 1999, and will be held at the Kenbrook Bible Camp, Lebanon, Pa.. The weekend begins on Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. and concludes Sunday after lunch.

There will be several presenters during the two days including Andy Steed, the president of the Role Play Foundation, a progressive training company

dedicated to empowering people to prepare, practice, and perform to their highest potential. Dr. Steve Musser of Messiah College will speak Saturday morning.

Peggy Knepper, a previous attendee states, "The weekend turned out to be far better than we anticipated. It was well organized, very relaxing, and there was a variety of interesting speakers. We even renewed old acquaintances and have kept in contact since that time. We plan on attending again."

Reservations are required due to space limitations. The deadline for reservations is Friday, January 29. Lodging is available. For more information on registration, contact your local church for a registration folder or contact Menno Haven Gift Planning Services at (717) 262-4905. **EV**





# Opening the Word of Life

## Picture Perfect

*He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, 'they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!'" (Mark 4:11-12)*

"Voiceless it cries, Wingless flutters, Toothless bites, Mouthless mutters." That is one of the riddles that Bilbo, the hobbit, was challenged to guess in J.R.R. Tolkien's book, *The Hobbit*. What do you think is the answer or solution to the riddle? Riddles make us think. They attract our attention, focus our concentration, and excite our imagination. When someone tells us a riddle, the first thing we try to do is figure it out.

To those whose minds were closed to the things of God, Jesus seemed to teach in riddles. His parables needed explanations. His teaching was difficult to swallow. His actions were often confusing. Nonetheless, despite what the initial reading of Mark 4:11-12 seems to imply, Jesus' intent was never to make obscure the issues related to the Kingdom of God. His intent was to clarify and correct the traditional, perhaps pharisaic, message about the Kingdom. He used parables as pictures which were specifically designed to help, and not hinder, his audience.

Our word "parable" is a transliteration of the Greek word *parabole*. It is a word that was used to represent a variety of literary types such as symbolic and fictitious narrative, an adage, a comparison, a parable, or a proverb. Usually a parable takes a theme that is part of common life to convey a moral or to make a point. Generally parables are not analogies in which every character, place, or incident is symbolic of something else, but there is usually one specific thrust or point being made.

How are we to understand Jesus' words in Mark 4:11-12: "to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, 'they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,

and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!'"? It does seem like he is saying that the purpose of the parables is to keep those on the "outside" in the dark about Kingdom matters. Let's look at the text more closely.

First, one needs to consider the context of the saying. It occurs between Jesus' telling of the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-9) and his explanation of that parable to his disciples (Mark 4:13-20). In the parable, the seed is the Word of God (Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom—the gospel). Note that in the parable, only one-fourth of the sowing produces a crop. Most farmers would consider that a poor harvest. The other "poor" soils represent those who do not hear the Word and take it to heart for various reasons. The disciples themselves do not understand the parable and Jesus needs to explain its meaning to them.

It is important to consider two factors in Jesus' explanation. It was an open explanation to "the Twelve and the others around him." Thus, anyone who wanted to know more would have had opportunity. Jesus was not obscuring its message. Further, the message of the parable ends with a surprise. Even though only one-fourth of the seed takes root, the harvest is vastly greater than expected; those who hear "produce a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown" (Mark 4:20). Jesus' message would not be in vain; there would be people with "Kingdom ears" to hear.

Second, one needs to recognize that Jesus' words in verse 12 are a quote from Isaiah 6:9-10. Isaiah was told by God, "Go and tell this people: 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.' Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

The question to ask is, "Was God telling Isaiah to have as his purpose in ministry to tell the people to pay no heed to what the prophet had to say?" Our common sense leads us to answer "no." What God seems to be saying to Isaiah is that he should proclaim God's message, but not to expect the people to listen. Their hearts had become calloused to God. This was in fact exactly what Isaiah experienced. During the next forty years, Isaiah's words fell on deaf ears. Jesus applies Isaiah's experience

to his own and predicts that the parables (and the rest of his teaching) would fall on mostly deaf ears, but that there would be one-fourth of his hearers who would receive the truth.

Jesus imparted the mystery of the Kingdom of God to the disciples, whose hearts were already open to receiving Jesus' message. But to the people outside that circle (who were inquisitive but not committed, or whose hearts were calloused or closed to Jesus' message), Jesus spoke in parables in hope that they would grasp enough of his teaching so they would repent and receive forgiveness. Jesus was a master at taking an illustration from common life and using that picture to teach a truth about the Kingdom of God. Such pictures, or parables, were intended to accomplish the same purpose as the telling of a riddle. Jesus wanted his hearers to think, to consider the Kingdom of God. He proclaimed theological truths in a literary form that would captivate people and communicate difficult concepts in one of the easiest ways possible. He showed them a picture. His message was "picture perfect."

By the way, did you guess the riddle in the first paragraph? I know you've been thinking about it. The answer is "the wind." Your experience of being challenged with the "riddle picture," and working it out, is very similar to what Jesus intended with the parables.

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*The author of "Opening the Word of Life" is Ed Kessler, pastor of the Free Grace Brethren in Christ Church in Millersburg, Pa.*

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## Focusing our Mission...

continued from page 30

called each other to pray the New Testament Scriptures and listen for the voice of what God is saying to the church. We all need to be diligent in this work to the honor and glory of God.

God has a portion of his church who have come to be known as Brethren in Christ. I am deeply moved to be part of this portion of God's church family. I am also encouraged and excited for what is in store for us as a church family as we walk by faith into the days ahead. Thank you for the call to service which you have given to me within the church. I commit myself by God's grace to do my part in this great work. Will you join in doing the same in the place of ministry and service which the Lord has given to you? 



## Women servants in the church

Friends who observe my role in the church and seminary sometimes ask how I came to my present understanding of the ways in which women may serve in the church. This has given me various opportunities to recall how God has led, so it is not difficult to respond to a request that I review the process for this column.

Returning from missionary service in Africa in 1974, we faced many adjustments, and it was in the midst of this transition that I first read in the *Visitor* the suggestion by one writer that women should be ordained. This was contrary to my view of the Scriptures. I thought I might write a response to the suggestion, but decided to do some reading first to see what others were saying. I read a wide range of interpretations—some traditional and some that stretched the point too far. All were taking the Scriptures seriously, however, and I was made to think more carefully than I had before.

Surprising to me was the list of women in the Bible who were commended for being everything from judges to merchants to apostles. I had never before noticed that there were

women who traveled in the band with Jesus and helped with expenses. One day it dawned on me that I was using my negative approach to the Scriptures about women in ministry to evade responsibilities that it seemed the Lord would have me carry.

Reading the concepts presented by Gretchen Hull in *Equal to Serve* opened my understanding further. She pointed out that women were already doing all sorts of “official” work in the church, but that certain interpretations of Scripture kept leaders from giving women the titles, authority, and recognition that should accompany these tasks. I had to admit that as a missionary I had preached, taught, led, and exercised authority in the church in ways that would have transgressed certain interpretations of Scripture if I had official titles to go with the work. I learned through reading that missionary women through the years had filled many roles in the church overseas where the need was so great and men were not coming forward to do the work. This didn’t make it right, but if it wasn’t wrong, then it was certainly inconsistent.

I recognized that we were not accustomed to seeing women take certain roles. I remember once thinking that women would not make good radio or TV announcers because of the different

register of their voices. I look back now and wonder how I could be so mistaken. In the same way, many of us in the church have not been accustomed to seeing a woman lead a service or chair a board. Finding women more visible in the world around us makes us realize that some of our reluctance in the church comes from inexperience, and women who are gifted and called to serve in the church can and will do an excellent job. I have come to accept that God wants us to lead at times.

There are still Paul’s words about women “keeping silence in the church” (surely we should not make a disturbance with our questions), about “not teaching” (yet Paul commended Priscilla as the primary teacher of Apollos), and about “not usurping authority over men.” I have no doubt that women who “usurp authority” are out of line.

Perhaps one answer is that men should give women authority, not because we must wait for them to do so, but because our cultural heritage makes us reluctant to take authority upon ourselves. Men who are free to encourage women in ministry accomplish two things: they get help for the important work that is too big for them to carry alone; and they inspire women who either have not considered it possible that they serve God in this way or who feel called and find it difficult to get support.

My journey has been made easier by a husband whose family was won by a lady pastor, who did not feel threatened by my gifts, who found the Scriptures affirming of women, and who urged me to get training and step out in ministry. There is still the question of women’s ministry in the church possibly detracting from the role of motherhood and support of one’s husband in the home. These are extremely important, but rather than keeping women out of ministry so they will serve at home, let us encourage them to make a career of mothering, especially while the children are small, as well as enabling them to serve God in his time in other ways in which he has gifted them.

—Grace Holland

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*Column editor’s note: At General Conference July 1998, I was impressed by the paucity of women’s names in the roster presented by the Nominating Committee. While I understand that the nominating process is quite involved, and that a name does not appear except by consent, I cannot avoid the concern that the Brethren in Christ are overlooking or bypassing the leadership gifts God has given to women among us.*

*A related concern is that, while we accept the leadership exercised by some women, we are very slow to bestow upon them titles or authority befitting the roles they play among us.*

*The issue of women in leadership in the church may be outdated for some, but it appears that the Brethren in Christ have a long way to go with it. It’s not a matter of whether or not we succumb to feminism. It’s a matter of recognizing the gifts God has bestowed upon women, and also a matter of how the Brethren in Christ can best reach the present generation of persons who need the Gospel but find the church to be an impediment to their journey toward God.*

*Grace Holland is a woman among us gifted for service and leadership. She shares with us some insights gained through a lifetime of missionary service. At my invitation she prepared the following article for this column.—Samuel M. Brubaker*





# Onesimus

Readers may correspond with Onesimus by writing to him in care of the *Evangelical Visitor*, P.O. Box 166, Nappanee, IN 46550. Letters to Onesimus may be published unless they are marked "Personal—Not for Publication."

Dear Paul,

North America is a difficult place to live. It is not so difficult to get the basic provisions of life. The difficulty comes in getting everything we are told we need.

Advertisers spend millions of dollars everyday to make sure the people are not content with what they have. This makes it difficult for the natives here to be thankful.

Many North Americans struggle to celebrate the holiday called Thanksgiving. Many have even begun to call it "Turkey Day" instead of "Thanksgiving Day." I am not sure how the turkeys feel about this distinguished honor.

Thanksgiving Day here has almost been buried between two commercial giants, Halloween and Christmas. Santa Claus and the lights and holly go up in the stores before all the candy and scary costumes have even been put away.

Here in the U.S., Thanksgiving began as a day to express gratitude to God in a very public way. Governor William Bradford of the Plymouth Colony gathered the survivors of the Mayflower together to praise God for their first harvest. Many of their number had not survived the perilous trip and the first bitter winter. But it was still good and right to be thankful to the Lord of the harvest. That first Thanksgiving celebration lasted three days as the Pilgrims and their Native American guests feasted on wild turkey and venison.

Days of giving thanks were celebrated sporadically in the U.S. until President George Washington issued a proclamation on November 26, 1789, creating a national day of Thanksgiving. Washington decreed that prayer and giving thanks to God were to be

the top priorities and that the day was to be celebrated by all religious denominations. Obviously, the U.S. Supreme Court had not yet had time to straighten the president out.

Almost 75 years later, on April 30, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln formally designated the last Thursday in November as a national holiday of "fasting, humiliation, thanksgiving, and prayer" in the United States. It hardly seemed like a time to be thankful. The day came in the middle of the bloodiest war ever to be fought on American soil.

The words of President Lincoln sound as if they could have come from a biblical prophet. Listen to what he wrote: "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, the many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown

***Thanksgiving Day here has almost been buried between two commercial giants, Halloween and Christmas. Santa Claus and the lights and holly go up in the stores before all the candy and scary costumes have even been put away.***

in numbers, wealth, and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to God that made us! It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

Paul, the heart of Lincoln's call to repent and be thankful could have been written to U.S. and Canadian citizens today. As a whole, people here have forgotten God. We are intoxicated with success (and other things). Our deceitful hearts have vainly imagined that our superior wisdom and virtue have produced all the things that we have charged on our Visa cards.

It has become politically incorrect to speak of humbling ourselves before God. Who needs mercy and grace when "I'm OK, you're OK"? Oh Paul, it is so hard to be thankful when our gods are so small and so much like us.

As for prayer, well, it and creation were eliminated from the public square long ago, so there will be very few official prayers of thanksgiving to the God who made us. It is easy to see why "Turkey Day" is replacing "Thanksgiving Day" as the name of this coming holiday.

But Paul, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. We intend to enter his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. We will give thanks to him and praise his name, for the Lord is good and his love endures forever. Thanksgiving, not a turkey, will be the centerpiece of the holiday for us. Turkeys come and go, but thanksgiving to God is eternal.

Thanking God for his mercy,  
provision, and grace,  
Onesimus



# Focusing our Mission

250 Growing, Discipling,  
Sending Congregations  
by A.D. 2000



## Moving forward with excitement

by Kenneth O. Hoke

As with many things in my life these days, writing this article is a new experience for me. It has been exciting coming into the responsibilities of the General Secretary for our church family. There are many challenges and many opportunities before us. I would like to use this article to talk about my new experiences within this assignment to which you have called me.

As I came into the position of General Secretary, I entered a place of ministry which I had seen from the outside, but had obviously not yet experienced for myself. We often see and associate the external and public activities of the General Secretary with this position. But we may have little knowledge of the many other things that go with it. Perhaps it is a little like the statement that was sometimes made to me as a pastor: "It must be nice to only have to work on Sundays."

One of my early contacts with a person in the denomination gave me quite a challenge as I learned what he saw General Secretaries doing in the past. He spoke of the General Secretary moving among the various ministries of the church and working to hold things together—something like the application of glue to two pieces of a total structure, so that it all holds together. That was an interesting opening idea. It definitely fit with my personal sense of humor during my installation at General Conference. There seemed to be no end to the different groups and functions for which the General Secretary carried a responsibility. I thought then, and I continue to pray, that by God's grace I may be used in these functions as the Lord determines. This conversation just pushed the reason for being used in these settings toward the cohesiveness of the whole.

As I came into the responsibilities of the General Secretary, I have been stimulated and encouraged about our life together as Brethren in Christ. It has been my privilege

to meet with the Executive Committees of the Board for World Missions, the Board for Media Ministries, and the Board of Directors of the Jacob Engle Foundation, as well as the Cabinet of the Board for World Missions. Within the next several months I will have met with the full boards of all of these groups as well as the Board for Stewardship Services. Each of these groups are working hard for the life and ministry of the church within their individual responsibilities and areas of service.

I have also met with the boards of several of our denominational or denominationally-related institutions, including Lifeline Ministries, Messiah Village, and Messiah College. And I had the opportunity to spend a day in orientation to the work of the Mennonite Central Committee. Each of these groups are vitally involved in their particular area of service. It is exciting to hear what is happening and to be involved with them in the ministry which has been placed under their leadership. Do we sometimes forget how many things are part of the bigger picture of who we are as Brethren in Christ? These opportunities are definitely bringing me into closer contact with the workings and involvements of these areas of service than what I had as the pastor of a local congregation. Again, I am excited about what I see and what is happening.

Just in case you may get the idea that all I do is attend board meetings, let me hasten on to some other areas of involvement. It was a real joy to be at Roxbury Holiness Camp on Missions Day. This ministry has taken a number of strides to touch a new generation in a new day. It was exciting to be part of what was happening there. It was very exciting to see and hear what the Lord was doing in and through the overseas missions arm of our church. In a different context, I was also part of a one-day study conference sponsored by the Brethren in Christ Study Center. This opportunity brought a good group of people together to look at how we handle and work with changing theological influences in the life of the larger church. The papers were stimulating and I look forward to their being published in

the journal *Brethren in Christ History and Life* so that a much larger group of the church may also interact on these issues.

After being a pastor in a congregation for a number of years, it is exciting to still be involved in "pastoral ministry," but with a much larger parish. To speak in two different churches, one in the east and one in the west, has been something that I pray will be a growing opportunity for me as I move among you. It has also been great to worship with six different congregations during these weeks and sense what God is doing in the life of these churches. As a pastor, this was an opportunity that I very seldom was afforded. I count it a real privilege to have these new opportunities.

In one speaking context I developed this idea of having a pastoral concern for a group of people. I carried such a concern for the congregation in which I was privileged to minister. I told the congregation where I was preaching that I also carried a pastoral concern for them. Then I went on to say that this pastoral concern is also part of who I am as I relate to the whole church family. I don't have any idea of being able to relate to all people in North America as a pastor. I do have a very strong sense, however, of having the heart and feel of a pastor as I move and work within the North American church.

It has been exciting to participate together in ministry with my colleague, Warren Hoffman. We are privileged to share together as church leaders, and with the bishops and executive directors, to work together as a Leadership Council. I ask for your prayers for all of us. I ask that you pray regularly for the church as a whole. We are in a time when we have

*continued on page 27*

Kenneth O. Hoke  
is the General Secretary for the Brethren in Christ Church, with offices in Grantham, Pa.







## Brethren in Christ Response to Hurricane Mitch

*News reports chronicle perhaps the greatest natural disaster to ever hit Central America with a death toll that could reach 11,000. Over a million people were left homeless by Hurricane Mitch.*

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras** — BIC missionary Nathan Bert described the impact in Tegucigalpa. "When the center of the storm passed over, the river rose to a height never before seen—destroying bridges, homes and businesses in its path. The river that bisects the city has only one passable bridge remaining." It's estimated that 30 percent of homes in Tegucigalpa were damaged or destroyed. Country-wide, one out of five Hondurans experienced some type of loss.

Looters have ransacked supermarkets and stores. The government has rationed fuel, food and drinking water. Basic food staples are unavailable. Because roads between cities and rural areas are impassable, it may be weeks before food can be transported to the city. Crops almost ready for harvest were destroyed. The country is in a state of emergency. Starvation and disease will increase suffering.

Most BIC churches in Honduras are in areas hit hardest by the tragedy. Nearly all of our 50 churches have been significantly impacted by this disaster.

**MANAGUA, Nicaragua** — Reports indicate thousands of people are displaced because of flooding. Major highways in the North are impassable. Bridges are damaged or destroyed. Officials say the exact number of dead in Saturday's 32-square-mile mudslide may never be known.

Marshall Poe, BIC missionary in Managua, notes, "We have been touched by the generosity of our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters. Many do not have work and are living in frugal circumstances, but they are sharing the little they have." Little has been heard from our churches in northwest Nicaragua. They experienced drought last year. Now they are suffering from floods, ruined crops, and destroyed houses. Along with being cold, wet, hungry and sick, some must deal with loss of family members and friends.

The BIC World Hunger Fund has designated \$30,000 for immediate aid to our brothers and sisters in Honduras and Nicaragua. We are urgently appealing to the Brethren in Christ community for disaster relief aid. Funds designated to the World Hunger Fund for Central America will be administered by the BIC Board for World Missions, providing food and supplies to meet the basic needs of our greater church family.

***The need is great. Please give and pray generously.***

Make checks payable to Cooperative Ministries. Indicate WHF-Central America.

World Hunger Fund  
Brethren in Christ Church  
PO Box 290  
Grantham, PA 17027

World Hunger Fund  
BIC Stewardship Office  
36 Drew Street  
Welland, Ontario L3C 5H7

For current information go to [www.bic-church.org/wm/mitch.htm](http://www.bic-church.org/wm/mitch.htm)

This bulletin insert was distributed to congregations early in November. For more information about Hurricane Mitch, see pages 9-10.



**A.D.  
33**

*At Pentecost, Peter quoted from the prophet Joel to explain to the crowd what they were seeing. Curiously, both young people and old people were described as "forward-looking" (dreaming dreams and seeing visions).*

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**A.D.  
1999**

In this final year of the 1990s, we Brethren in Christ will be looking forward into a new century, putting into words our understanding of what the really Good News of the gospel will be, according to Brethren in Christ understandings.

In 1999, each issue of the ***Evangelical Visitor*** will address themes from our current ***Articles of Faith and Doctrine***. Supporting the major theme articles will be clips from our words and our deeds of the past on that issue; a look at how we fared in trying to flesh out what we believe; and perhaps a few bloopers along the way.

The series begins with a look at "How we handle Scripture."

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**PLUS** missions articles and regular columns such as "Opening the Word of Life," "Onesimus" and "Focusing our Mission," and letters to the editor and "Dialogue" articles by people like you, who share their concerns about living the Christian faith in today's world.

### **Moving?**

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